

Vine & Branches

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

June 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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Men at Rachel's Vineyard Retreat Weekends

By: Scott Miller

At our latest Rachel's Vineyard weekend in Winnipeg, Canada we had four men present which was a bit different from the previous weekend where I was the only male present. So, there were two post-abortive fathers, a father who had lost a child to miscarriage and a pastor going through the retreat in order to become a potential team member. The dynamic of the weekend took a bit of a shift as the ladies were able to see the guilt and grief on the part of the post-abortive father as he confessed his wrong doing in coercing his then girlfriend to abort their child. It impacted the women there to see that even a father who had pushed for an abortion at one point in his life, could be overcome with guilt and grief at a later time when the impact of exactly what he had done came to bear on his soul. During a time of healing prayer with this father before the retreat, he shared how he was present at the time of the abortion. He shared how he felt that he was doing something terribly wrong and that he was a horrible person. At that point in his experience through prayer we asked Jesus to speak to him and give him the Lord's perspective on his situation. The Lord spoke to him and said 'I forgive you and I love you'. He shared after the retreat how up to this point in his life he had been punishing himself for what he had done, but through the retreat weekend he had been released from something very deep that he had carried since the abortion. In fact he was very exhausted after the retreat because the burden he had been carrying for twenty years had finally been released. It was an interesting experience to see how even those who had pushed for an abortion to occur, could suffer emotionally from that experience and could also eventually receive the Lord's forgiveness and healing when they brought that experience to Him. It was nice to have a father there receiving healing from the Lord and giving us all the feeling that God could forgive us no matter what we had done.

** Scott is a member of the Rachel's Vineyard Retreat site in Winnipeg, MB, Canada. If you would like to reach out to Scott you can do so by emailing him at smiller@gospelmission.ca*

"God is not looking for brilliant men, is not depending upon eloquent men, is not reliant upon the use of talented men in sending His Gospel out in the world. God is looking for the broken men who have judged

themselves in the light of the Cross of Christ. When He wants anything done, He takes up men who have come to the end of themselves, whose confidence is not in themselves, but in God."

-H.A. Ironside

Rachel's Vineyard in Italy

The Rachel's Vineyard retreat site in Bologna, Italy has been very busy this past year. Most recently they participated in Italy's 4th annual March for Life on the May 4, 2014. Though abortion has been legal in Italy for over 35 years, the country is just now starting to realize its harmful effects on men and women. To see pictures from the March please [Click Here](#).

The Rachel's Vineyard Italy Mission has also just released their Spring Update. In it they tell or share the stories of how the Rachel's Vineyard Retreat has touched and transformed the lives of the men and women who have gone through their many retreats. To get an idea of how Rachel's Vineyard has helped their retreat participants please read the following testimonies.

A cohabitating couple in their mid 30's with a 2 year-old daughter had aborted their second child just months before finding us. Their entire family project was crumbling. Even knowing they would not share quarters during the weekend as they do at home, the couple travelled over 2 hours to Bologna and courageously participated in the 3-day retreat. They have stayed in close contact with us and their fellow participants in the months following. Six months after the retreat they baptized their living daughter and are now discerning Christian marriage as a next step in building their life together. They now have friends with whom they share their budding faith.

They pray daily and have come to recognize what they often call their "blindness" in having lived many years thinking they had no need for God's presence in their daily lives. Their journey continues, especially in healing family of origin relationships that strongly contributed to the abortion decision.

Another retreat participant reflected on her participation in Rachel's Vineyard:

"This was a unique and profound experience. The Church doesn't turn its back on you. I'd always considered the Church a bit bigoted but I was wrong. There's a great sense of sharing and solidarity among the retreat participants and team. ... I was able to see the fragility and vulnerability of my partner and all of his pain. He asked my forgiveness. I can't condemn him anymore."

A husband from Northern Italy, who participated with his wife, said:

"This is a healing process that proceeds step by step and is well prepared and well organized.... The sharing of stories in the small group, including

our family of origin and the traumatic events of our life was a big help.... it wasn't easy for me to speak about certain experiences but here I never felt uneasy, and hearing other stories was positive. This retreat will help me a lot in my faith journey. Thank you for your presence and for the great affection you showed us."

A wife from Rome who participated with her husband for the abortion they'd experienced 25 years earlier, before marrying, said:

"Having participated with my husband was undoubtedly a work of God, Who inspired and led us to attend together. Joining in this experience helped us to "not harden our hearts" and to talk openly about our poverties. We were able to let go of our hiding and our false sense of pride, to allow the truths of our experience to come to light and to let mercy enter our relationship."

While the team in Italy makes a great effort to prepare participants for the intensity of the process into which they invite them, the spiritual intensity of the retreat often surprises the retreat participants.

In the words of one participant:

"The retreat allowed me a most precious encounter with Jesus. It was conducted on a deep level and was marked by a high degree of professionalism and knowledge of the Word of God... words alone can't express the importance of this experience for me. Honestly, I wasn't prepared for such a deep encounter, even if in the pre-retreat period I appreciated and benefited from the availability of the team and the various members with whom I shared my experience and the motivations behind my choice to take..."

Another participant particularly appreciated the team members who themselves had been through abortion and now offered their companionship and testimony to others:

"I experience a deep connection with one of the team members who'd been through the same experience and her presence was particularly precious because she knew how to support me throughout the three days of the retreat, particularly at a moment in which I felt bewildered and unsure. For that reason I would say the support of the entire team is a key element of this process..."

The team in Italy is doing great things, to read their full spring report [CLICK HERE!](#)

**For more information on the retreat site in Italy please contact Monika at info.vignadirachele@yahoo.it.

"Great works are performed not by strength but by perseverance."
-Samuel Johnson

Rachel's Vineyard Recommends: *Molding Sharon* By: Phoebe Ann Siylor



In *Molding Sharon*, the author employs imagery skillfully as a genius painter who never raises their paint brush from the canvas, transmitting to it style, setting and meaning! The literary style employed correlates with the narrative in a theological sense in that they evoke and emphasize 'a becoming'. More than just a metamorphosis, but a maturing into one's being; a fulfillment of one's identity and dignity!

Life is displayed through the lens of an abortion experience and its effects in vivid detail! This experience is the climax of the plot and the point at which the vibrant descriptions of life prior to it are challenged by metaphysical reality and its implications pertaining to life! In the end Sharon finds peace and redemption through recognizing the dignity of life while learning and accepting the love and mercy of God!

Molding Sharon will be available July 1, 2014 through Amazon, Barnes & Nobles, and all bookstores can order it.

Title: *Molding Sharon*

Author: Phoebe Ann Siylor

Publisher: Tate Publishing And ENTERPRISES, LLC

ISBN: 978-1-63063-566-4

**The author Phoebe Ann Siylor is also available for book signings. She can be contacted via email at teach621@reagan.com or via phone at 419-989-8963.

"No one is a firmer believer in the power of prayer than the devil; not that he practices it, but he suffers from it."

- Guy H. King

Rachel's Vineyard Appeal

As you celebrate this Father's Day take some time to remember those fathers who regret their lost fatherhood. You can help men redeem their father's heart after the pain of abortion by making a donation to Rachel's Vineyard today!

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

"I slept and I dreamed that life is all joy. I woke and I saw that life is all service. I served and I saw that service is joy."

— Khalil Gibran

Message from Pastoral Director

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In my ongoing work to motivate and equip the clergy to speak out against abortion, I often speak to priests who admit that they do not preach on this as much as they should. In one such conversation, I asked the priest what kinds of topics he did feel passionate about preaching on, and he told me that his particular concern was drug abuse. So then I proceeded to ask him whether he had seen any of the studies that show that abortion leads to an increase in substance abuse behavior, and he said that he had not seen that research but was interested in it. So I promised to send it to him. Through that conversation, I provided him a new motive for addressing the abortion issue in the pulpit.

Many seek healing today from a wound that may not have happened had there been more preaching on abortion from the pulpit. In this month of June, I have been promoting a special effort to have churches reach out to fathers (see www.TurningTheHeartsofFathers.com). And indeed, the outreach to fathers includes an outreach to our spiritual fathers, the clergy. We need them on the front lines not only in preaching about how wrong abortion is, but preaching the urgent call to healing in Rachel's Vineyard.

I always tell pastors that silence does not interpret itself. Their silence may indeed be motivated by the best of intentions, but the person sitting in the pews who is hurting from abortion may well conclude that the silence means that the church does not know their pain, or does not care, or is incapable of helping. None of these, of course, are true. We do know, we do care, we can help, and therefore we must speak!

I want to thank you for your involvement in Rachel's Vineyard. This work is transforming the church and transforming our culture. Let's keep it up!

As always, let me know how I can assist you in your efforts! You are in my prayers.

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

"It is in the field of prayer that life's critical battles are lost or won."

- J. H. Jowett

Rachel's Vineyard Social Networking



If you feel the weight of your sins, do not be afraid! He is a loving Father; God's mercy is much greater than we can imagine.

~ Mother Teresa: Her Essential Wisdom
by Carol Kelly-Gangj

Mercy greater than you can imagine awaits you on a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat for healing after abortion.

*To find a retreat go to
RachelsVineyard.org or call
1-877-HOPE-4-ME*

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

Check out our **YouTube** videos: www.youtube.com/user/rachelsvineyard

"It has often been said that prayer is the greatest force in the universe. This is no exaggeration. It will bear constant repetition.

In this atomic age when forces are being released that staggers the thought and imagination of man, it is well to remember that prayer transcends all other forces."

- F. J. Huegel

United in Prayer

For *Frank and Loraine Gariboldi*, retreat site leaders in Long Island, New York, as they are working to establish multiple retreat sites in Africa.

For *Steven Burke*, Kevin and Theresa Burke's son, who tore his Anterior Cruciate Ligament (ACL) and had to undergo surgery at the end of May. Please pray for a full recovery. He will be staging the Rock Opera "Tommy" this summer through his new production company www.NewCavern.org and because the show must go on he needs our prayers!

We would like to ask for prayers for all of those who selflessly volunteered their time to work within Rachel's Vineyard. We are blessed to have over 150,000 volunteers, working at over 350 retreat sites. Please pray for their patience, guidance and will to continue doing the great work they have been called to.

"The main lesson about prayer is just this: Do it! Do it! Do it! You want to be taught to pray. My answer is pray and never faint, and then you shall never fail."

- John Laidlaw

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 for the Inuit people.*

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

If you will call your troubles experiences, and remember that every experience develops some latent force within you, you will grow vigorous and happy, however adverse your circumstances may seem to be.

- John R. Miller

Upcoming Rachel's Vineyard Training Events

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

Houston, TX - Clinical and Rachel's Vineyard Facilitator and Team Training

On Friday **April 17, 2015** Dr. Theresa Burke will be conducting a **Clinical Training** for Mental Health Professionals.

On Saturday **April 18, 2015** Dr. Theresa Burke will be conducting a **Rachel's Vineyard Facilitator and Team Training**.

For more information please contact Stephanie Walker at mktginperson@yahoo.com

"In learning you will teach, and in teaching you will learn."

— Phil Collins

Upcoming Rachel's Vineyard Retreats

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

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

Trenton, NJ

Contact: Judy Warenkiewicz 732-536-6871

judywarren543@msn.com

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

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

Atlanta, GA

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

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

Cherry Hill, NJ

Contact: Margarita Moran 856-691-2299

projectrachel.pjp2rc@verizon.net

Friday, June 27, 2014

Sunday, June 29, 2014

Asunción, Paraguay

Contact: Cinthya de Rojas 0981652725 cinthyaderojas@gmail.com

Friday, July 04, 2014

Sunday, July 06, 2014

Bologna, Italy

Contact: Italia-Nord Valeria D'Antonio 011-39-347-262-5321

valedantony@katamail.com

Contact: Italia-Sud Monika e Domenico Montanaro 39.099.7724.518

info.vignadirachele@yahoo.it

Friday, July 11, 2014

Sunday, July 13, 2014

Denver, CO

Contact: Ameer Stadler (720) 271-7406

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

Friday, July 11, 2014

Sunday, July 13, 2014

Fresno, CA

Contact: Jennifer Butcher 877-629-6626

butcher_jennifer@yahoo.com

Contact: Paula Davalos - Español 888-686-8537

paula.d@fbcares.org

Friday, July 11, 2014

Sunday, July 13, 2014

Sacramento, CA

Contact: Liz Kelso 916-733-0161 projectrachel@scd.org

Friday, July 11, 2014

Sunday, July 13, 2014

Hankinson, ND

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

Friday, July 11, 2014

Sunday, July 13, 2014

Springfield, MA

Contact: Jean Suddaby 413-452-0661

Contact: Suzanne DeFriesse 203-417-0504

luvthegospa@hotmail.com

Friday, July 11, 2014

Sunday, July 13, 2014

Allentown, PA

Contact: Sr. Meg Cole, SSJ 866-372-2435

mcole@allentowndiocese.org

Friday, July 11, 2014

Sunday, July 13, 2014

Melbourne (Interdenom), VIC, Australia

Contact: Anne Neville (03) 9870 7044 anne@opendoors.com.au

Friday, July 18, 2014

Sunday, July 20, 2014

Mesa, AZ

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

Friday, July 18, 2014

Sunday, July 20, 2014

Jacksonville/St. Augustine, FL

Contact: Jackie Love 904-294-1884

rachelsvineyardjax@yahoo.com

Contact: Rachel 904-221-3232 rachelsvineyardjax@yahoo.com

Friday, July 18, 2014

Sunday, July 20, 2014

Lake Charles, LA

Contact: Marjorie Long 337-439-7400 ext317

rachels.vineyard@lcdiocese.org

Friday, July 18, 2014

Sunday, July 20, 2014

Phoenix (Español), AZ

Contact: Carmen Portela 602-354-2031

cportela@diocesephoenix.org

Contact: Josefina Mata 602-402-0867

josefinamatampm@yahoo.com

Contact: Judith Villegas 623-205-7812 jdth_villegas@yahoo.com

Friday, July 18, 2014

Sunday, July 20, 2014

Houston, TX

Contact: Cindy 713-825-0649

Contact: Traci or Cindy 281-658-7366 rvhouston@yahoo.com

Friday, July 25, 2014

Sunday, July 27, 2014

Northwest Indiana, IN

Contact: Rosanne Kouris 219-765-1396 nwinrv@outlook.com

Friday, July 25, 2014

Sunday, July 27, 2014

Tampa, FL

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

Language: Spanish

Friday, July 25, 2014

Sunday, July 27, 2014

Fort Worth, TX

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

Denomination: Interdenominational

Friday, July 25, 2014

Sunday, July 27, 2014

Katy (Interdenom), TX

Contact: Mary Lee Mason 254-383-1717

rvinfo@newheartoftexas.org

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Saturday, August 02, 2014
