



# Vine & Branches

Rachel's Vineyard  
*Healing the Pain of Abortion*  
*One Weekend at a Time*

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## UNSUBSCRIBE

## 2015 Epiphany, Bringing us Goodness and Light! By Theresa Burke, Ph.D.

*"We saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him"  
(Matthew 2:2).*

*On January 6<sup>th</sup> we will celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany. In my family, we put our shoes in the door way and eagerly awaited for the arrival of the three kings to leave us presents while they traveled to Bethlehem. We always left food for the camels.... Oranges, beef jerky and other high energy food that helped them endure their long and arduous journey!*

So what is the fuel that drives us on – into a dark night that sometimes seems darkened by clouds and poor visibility? We know that the Three Wise Men had been studying the stars and waiting for the celestial signs that predicted the birth of a king for centuries.

These magi studied prophecies carefully. They did not forget what they read, but sought to apply their knowledge as they watched and waited.

They never lost hope that the prophecy would be fulfilled. And when it was, they were willing to take a long, uncertain journey to find Christ.

The Lord has given me many prophetic words about Rachel's Vineyard Ministries – and I have clung to the promises through some exceptionally difficult times. If we are confronted with obstacles, challenges and hardships in our ministries or in our personal lives, we know all about searching and waiting!

Part of New Year's resolutions include a commitment to do things better this year. We research possible solutions in order to make wise decisions. We wait for opportunities for education, and additional training. If we have a health challenge we wait for the results of tests or the next interventions. We watch for signs of improvement or decline. And we go through tons of discomfort uncertainly and anxiety as we follow the star that leads to our eternal destinies.

The wise men model perfect wisdom. We need to continually study the gospel and make them "Living Scriptures" to refute the

lies we can believe about our current situations, holding on to the sure hope that the Lord will fulfill His promises!

We need to notice signs of God's presence in our lives through nature, His Living Word, the answered prayers, the counsel of others who understand what we are going through and the promptings of the Holy Spirit which speak clearly to our heart.

We need to be willing to suffer discomfort on our journey through this life, knowing that when we reach our final destination, it will be worth the wait.

And above all, we need to bring our gifts, our talents and even our pain into thanksgiving and adoration for our savior. The Child, the Child, sleeping in the night -- He will bring us goodness and light. Indeed, as we watch the bright star of Christ -- He will bring us goodness and light.

Blessings and Peace upon you in 2015!



#### **1 John 4:9**

**"By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him."**



### **Rachel's Vineyard-A Year in Review**

We are delighted to share our annual 'Year in Review' report which details the ongoing growth of Rachel's Vineyard. Within this report you can read about new Rachel's Vineyard sites, training events and projects of 2014 by [CLICKING HERE](http://rachelsvineyard.org/PDF/2014_yearinreview.pdf) - [http://rachelsvineyard.org/PDF/2014\\_yearinreview.pdf](http://rachelsvineyard.org/PDF/2014_yearinreview.pdf).



**"From my point of view, God is the light that illuminates the darkness, even if it does not dissolve it, and a spark of divine light is within each of us."**

**~ Pope Francis**



# Pope Francis' homily during Christmas Eve Mass in St. Peter's Basilica

December 24, 2014

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined" (Is 9:1). "An angel of the Lord appeared to (the shepherds) and the glory of the Lord shone around them" (Lk 2:9). This is how the liturgy of this holy Christmas night presents to us the birth of the Saviour: as the light which pierces and dispels the deepest darkness. The presence of the Lord in the midst of his people cancels the sorrow of defeat and the misery of slavery, and ushers in joy and happiness.

We, too, in this blessed night, have come to the house of God. We have passed through the darkness which envelops the earth, guided by the flame of faith which illuminates our steps, and enlivened by the hope of finding the "great light". By opening our hearts, we also can contemplate the miracle of that child-sun who, arising from on high, illuminates the horizon.

The origin of the darkness which envelops the world is lost in the night of the ages. Let us think back to that dark moment when the first crime of humanity was committed, when the hand of Cain, blinded by envy, killed his brother Abel (cf. Gen 4:8). As a result, the unfolding of the centuries has been marked by violence, wars, hatred and oppression.

But God, who placed a sense of expectation within man made in his image and likeness, was waiting. He waited for so long that perhaps at a certain point it seemed he should have given up. But he could not give up because he could not deny himself (cf. 2 Tim 2:13). Therefore he continued to wait patiently in the face of the corruption of man and peoples.

Through the course of history, the light that shatters the darkness reveals to us that God is Father and that his patient fidelity is stronger than darkness and corruption. This is the message of Christmas night. God does not know outbursts of anger or impatience; he is always there, like the father in the parable of the prodigal son, waiting to catch from afar a glimpse of the lost son as he returns.

Isaiah's prophecy announces the rising of a great light which breaks through the night. This light is born in Bethlehem and is welcomed by the loving arms of Mary, by the love of Joseph, by the wonder of the shepherds. When the angels announced the birth of the Redeemer to the shepherds, they did so with these words: "This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger" (Lk 2:12).

The "sign" is the humility of God taken to the extreme; it is the love with which, that night, he assumed our frailty, our suffering,

our anxieties, our desires and our limitations. The message that everyone was expecting, that everyone was searching for in the depths of their souls, was none other than the tenderness of God: God who looks upon us with eyes full of love, who accepts our poverty, God who is in love with our smallness.

On this holy night, while we contemplate the Infant Jesus just born and placed in the manger, we are invited to reflect. How do we welcome the tenderness of God? Do I allow myself to be taken up by God, to be embraced by him, or do I prevent him from drawing close? "But I am searching for the Lord" - we could respond. Nevertheless, what is most important is not seeking him, but rather allowing him to find me and caress me with tenderness. The question put to us simply by the Infant's presence is: do I allow God to love me?

More so, do we have the courage to welcome with tenderness the difficulties and problems of those who are near to us, or do we prefer impersonal solutions, perhaps effective but devoid of the warmth of the Gospel? How much the world needs tenderness today!

The Christian response cannot be different from God's response to our smallness. Life must be met with goodness, with meekness. When we realize that God is in love with our smallness, that he made himself small in order to better encounter us, we cannot help but open our hearts to him, and beseech him: "Lord, help me to be like you, give me the grace of tenderness in the most difficult circumstances of life, give me the grace of closeness in the face of every need, of meekness in every conflict".

Dear brothers and sisters, on this holy night we contemplate the Nativity scene: there "the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light" (Is 9:1). People who were unassuming, open to receiving the gift of God, were the ones who saw this light. This light was not seen, however, by the arrogant, the proud, by those who made laws according to their own personal measures, who were closed off to others. Let us look to the crib and pray, asking the Blessed Mother: "O Mary, show us Jesus!"



**"The genuineness of a friend is shown at a time of trial, if he shares the distress you suffer."**

**~ St. Thalassios**



## A New Years Appeal

As we ring in the New Year many resolve to start anew. Many men and women may resolve to finally reach out to Rachel's Vineyard yearning to find healing! Please consider donating to Rachel's Vineyard this year, help make the resolutions of those seeking healing come to fruition. Your generosity could help make someone's New Year brighter.

Rachel's Vineyard Ministries is a non-profit organization. We are able to minister to those hurting after abortion through your contributions and prayers.

Online: [www.RachelsVineyard.org/donate](http://www.RachelsVineyard.org/donate)

By Phone: 610-354-0555 or By Mail: P.O. Box 140130 Staten Island, NY 1031



### TENDING THE GARDEN

With love, end hunger.  
With love, heal the broken.  
With love, promote peace.  
Seeds of love become miracles of grace.  
Plant seeds.  
Expect miracles.  
Love never fails.

These words have become an inspiration for my life. My business - Render Creations - is dedicated to helping those who are hungry, those who are broken and those who are looking for peace. Rachel's Vineyard came to mind because all who come to the retreats have a hunger for love and forgiveness, are broken emotionally and spiritually--and are looking for peace. The Rachel's Vineyard Ministry has been near and dear to my heart for many years, and I want to help.

25% of all sales are donated to charity. For further information, please send me a private message to the Facebook page from the link below, or email me at [lindia.lentz@gmail.com](mailto:lindia.lentz@gmail.com).

Here is a link to my Facebook business page.

<https://www.facebook.com/RenderCreationsLindia?ref=bookmarks>



## Note From the Pastoral Director

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Happy New Year! I hope the dawn of 2015 finds you rejoicing in the birth of the Lord and triumphing over every obstacle. That is certainly true for all of us here at the central office of Priests for Life.

This month of January provides us a lot of opportunities, via media and various events, to promote the mission of healing so well represented by Rachel's Vineyard. There will be a press conference on January 8 for the Silent No More project of Healing the Shockwaves of Abortion, in which Rachel's Vineyard is very involved as a resource. (Please note, by the way, that this new project in no way changes the mission, format, or day-to-day activities of the Rachel's Vineyard retreat sites. This is an awareness campaign, and what impact it may have on us in regard to new people who may knock on our door for retreats is something that we will deal with it as it unfolds.)

January, of course, is a time when many churches and media outlets give more attention to the issue of abortion than at other times of the year, because of the anniversary of Roe vs. Wade. You can be sure that in my every media appearance and talk to the public at the many rallies and marches this month and in the homily and bulletin materials we send out to the churches, the urgent invitation to the healing mercy of Christ will be a prominent theme. Praise the Lord for all who make Rachel's Vineyard a powerful vessel of that healing mercy!

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



**“Be the one who nurtures and builds. Be the one who has an understanding and a forgiving heart one who looks for the best in people. Leave people better than you found them.”**  
~ Marvin J. Ashton



## Rachel's Vineyard Social Media

"I attended a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat this year and the healing I have experienced as a result have changed me deeply and fundamentally!"



[www.RachelsVineyard.org](http://www.RachelsVineyard.org)

Healing is possible after abortion!

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](http://www.facebook.com/rachelsvineyard)

Facebook Cause: [www.causes.com/rachelsvineyard](http://www.causes.com/rachelsvineyard)

Check out our YouTube videos:

[www.youtube.com/user/rachelsvineyard](http://www.youtube.com/user/rachelsvineyard)

**Psalms 9:1**

**I will give thanks to the LORD with all my heart; I will tell of all Your wonders.**

### United in Prayer

For *Katie D'Annunzio*, Rachel's Vineyard Headquarters Office Manager and sister to Dr. Theresa Burke, Founder of Rachel's Vineyard. Katie fell a few weeks ago and sprained her neck, please pray for a full recovery.

For *Lisa Jobin*, Rachel's Vineyard New Hampshire, has been diagnosed with Cancer. Please pray for a full recovery.

For *Graham Rintaul*, Rachel's Vineyard Portland, Oregon, has been diagnosed with cancer. Please pray that he receives the miracle of healing.

For *Kenneth Short*, Lauren Vogan's, Administrative Assistant for Rachel's Vineyard Headquarters, grandfather. He has been diagnosed with cancer and is not responding to treatment. Please pray that he and his family can find comfort and that the doctors find a way to treat his illnesses.



**"People are often unreasonable, irrational, and self-centered.**

**Forgive them anyway.**

**If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.**

**If you are successful, you will win some unfaithful friends and some genuine enemies. Succeed anyway.**

**If you are honest and sincere people may deceive you. Be honest and sincere anyway.**

**What you spend years creating, others could destroy overnight. Create anyway.**

**If you find serenity and happiness, some may be jealous. Be happy anyway.**

**The good you do today, will often be forgotten. Do good anyway.**

**Give the best you have, and it will never be enough. Give your best anyway.**

**In the final analysis, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway."**

**~ Mother Teresa**



**Upcoming Grief to Grace Retreats**  
**Healing the Wounds of Abuse**  
**Reclaiming the Gift of Human Dignity**

**[www.GriefftoGrace.org](http://www.GriefftoGrace.org)**

**Phoenix, AZ** - February 1 - 6, 2015

Contact: Jeanne Haines at [info@griefftoGrace.org](mailto:info@griefftoGrace.org) or by calling 610-203-2002

*Dr. Theresa Burke will be the lead facilitator.*

**Philadelphia, PA** - June 28th - July 3rd, 2015

Contact: [info@griefftoGrace.org](mailto:info@griefftoGrace.org) 610-203-2002

*Dr. Theresa Burke will be the lead facilitator.*



"A little bit of mercy makes the world less cold and more just."  
~ Pope Francis



## Upcoming Rachel's Vineyard Training Events

**Portland, OR** - Clinical and Grief to Grace/Rachel's Vineyard Facilitator and Team Training

On **Wednesday March 11, 2015** Dr. Theresa Burke will be conducting a **Clinical Training** for Health Professionals.

On **Thursday March 12, 2015** Dr. Theresa Burke will be conducting a **Grief of Grace/Rachel's Vineyard Facilitator and Team Training**.

For more information please contact Linda Franco at [Griegtograceoregon@gmail.com](mailto:Griegtograceoregon@gmail.com)

**Cache Creek, British Colombia, Canada** - On **Tuesday March 17, 2015** Dr. Theresa Burke will be conducting a **Rachel's Vineyard Facilitator and Team Training**.

For more information please contact Nancy Hadden at [nghadden@gmail.com](mailto:nghadden@gmail.com)

**Ottawa, Canada** – On **March 20, 2015** Dr. Theresa Burke will be presenting at the **Catholic Organization for Life and Family's 2015 Seminar**, COLF works in close collaboration with the **Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB)**. For more information please contact Michèle Boulva at Tel.: (613) 241-9461 /ext. 141.

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

On **Friday April 24, 2015** Dr. Theresa Burke will be conducting a **Clinical Training** for Mental Health Professionals.

On **Saturday April 25, 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](mailto:mktginperson@yahoo.com) or go to

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/2015-Clinical-Conference-HOUSTON/1482716128663939>

**Philadelphia, PA** – On **October 1, 2015** – Dr. Theresa Burke will be presenting at the **Catholic Medical Association Conference**.

For more information please contact Dr. Lester Ruppertsberger at [lruppertsberger@gmail.com](mailto:lruppertsberger@gmail.com)



“Certainly the best way for us to show our love...is by taking the time to prove it hour by hour and day by day. Our expressions of love and comfort are empty if our actions don't match.”

~ Marvin J. Ashton



## Upcoming Rachel's Vineyard Retreats

### **Katy (Interdenom), TX**

Contact: Mary Lee Mason 254-383-1717

[rvinfo@newheartoftexas.org](mailto:rvinfo@newheartoftexas.org)

Thursday, January 08, 2015

Saturday, January 10, 2015

### **Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN**

Contact: Nancy Blom 763-250-9313 [rachels@rvinyardmn.org](mailto:rachels@rvinyardmn.org)

Friday, January 09, 2015

Sunday, January 11, 2015

### **Phoenix (Español), AZ**

Contact: Carmen Portela 602-354-2031

[cportela@diocesephoenix.org](mailto:cportela@diocesephoenix.org)

Contact: Josefina Mata 602-402-0867

[josefinamatampm@yahoo.com](mailto:josefinamatampm@yahoo.com)

Contact: Judith Villegas 623-205-7812 [jdth\\_villegas@yahoo.com](mailto:jdth_villegas@yahoo.com)

Friday, January 09, 2015

Sunday, January 11, 2015

### **Detroit Area, MI**

Contact: English Retreat (248) 494-6363

[info@detroitrachelsvineyard.org](mailto:info@detroitrachelsvineyard.org)

Contact: [wendy\\_anderson@mydetroitrachelsvineyard.org](mailto:wendy_anderson@mydetroitrachelsvineyard.org)

Contact: Spanish Retreat (248) 296-9011

[info@detroitrachelsvineyard.org](mailto:info@detroitrachelsvineyard.org)

Friday, January 09, 2015

Sunday, January 11, 2015

### **Jacksonville/St. Augustine, FL**

Contact: Jackie Love 904-294-1884

[rachelsvineyardjax@yahoo.com](mailto:rachelsvineyardjax@yahoo.com)

Contact: Rachel 904-221-3232 [rachelsvineyardjax@yahoo.com](mailto:rachelsvineyardjax@yahoo.com)

Friday, January 09, 2015

Sunday, January 11, 2015

### **Pittsburgh, PA**

Contact: Toni 412-352-5348

Contact: Toni Jester 412-621-6953 [toniafj1@comcast.net](mailto:toniafj1@comcast.net)

Friday, January 23, 2015

Sunday, January 25, 2015

**Newark, NJ**

Contact: Cheryl Riley 973-497-4350 [rileyche@rcan.org](mailto:rileyche@rcan.org)

Language: Spanish

Friday, January 30, 2015

Sunday, February 01, 2015

**Tampa, FL**

Contact: Emma Boe 813-924-4173 [projectrachel@ccdosp.org](mailto:projectrachel@ccdosp.org)

Friday, January 30, 2015

Sunday, February 01, 2015

**Dallas (Español), TX**

Contact: Eileen Kuhlmann 972-679-4760

[ekuhlmann@prolifedallas.org](mailto:ekuhlmann@prolifedallas.org)

Friday, January 30, 2015

Sunday, February 01, 2015

**Miami (Español), FL**

Contact: Jackie Guillen 305-302-9436 [clamordevida@aim.com](mailto:clamordevida@aim.com)

Friday, February 06, 2015

Sunday, February 08, 2015

**Sacramento, CA**

Contact: Liz Kelso 916-733-0161 [projectrachel@scd.org](mailto:projectrachel@scd.org)

Friday, February 06, 2015

Sunday, February 08, 2015

**Litchfield, CT**

Contact: Marie Laffin 203-631-9030

[mlaffin@prolifeministry.org](mailto:mlaffin@prolifeministry.org)

Friday, February 06, 2015

Sunday, February 08, 2015

**Long Island/Huntington, NY**

Contact: Dn Joe and Joanne McNicholas 516-445-3927

[Rvr@lifecenterli.org](mailto:Rvr@lifecenterli.org)

Friday, February 06, 2015

Sunday, February 08, 2015

**Vienna, Austria**

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

[info@rachelsweinberg.at](mailto:info@rachelsweinberg.at)

Friday, February 13, 2015

Sunday, February 15, 2015

**Lake Charles, LA**

Contact: Marjorie Long 337-439-7400 ext317

[rachels.vineyard@lcdiocese.org](mailto:rachels.vineyard@lcdiocese.org)

Friday, February 13, 2015

Sunday, February 15, 2015

**Baltimore, MD**

Contact: Deacon Frank Zeiler 410-299-9597

[Fzeiler@archbalt.org](mailto:Fzeiler@archbalt.org)

Contact: Johanna Coughlin 410-625-8491

[rvbaltimore@archbalt.org](mailto:rvbaltimore@archbalt.org)

Friday, February 20, 2015

Sunday, February 22, 2015

**Saginaw, MI**

Contact: Sandy Buza 989-797-6652

[sbuza@dioceseofsaginaw.org](mailto:sbuza@dioceseofsaginaw.org)

Contact: Sandy Buza 800-453-2081 x652

Friday, February 20, 2015

Sunday, February 22, 2015

**Santa Rosa/St. Helena, CA**

Contact: Christine 415-260-4406 [christinew@firstresort.net](mailto:christinew@firstresort.net)

Friday, February 20, 2015

Sunday, February 22, 2015

**Oakland /East Bay, CA**

Contact: Christine 415-260-4406 [christinew@firstresort.net](mailto:christinew@firstresort.net)

Friday, February 20, 2015

Sunday, February 22, 2015

**Tulsa, OK**

Contact: Mary Lee Ingram 918-508-7142

[mlingram@catholiccharitiestulsa.org](mailto:mlingram@catholiccharitiestulsa.org)

Language: Spanish

Friday, February 27, 2015

Sunday, March 01, 2015

*Note: To register in Spanish: 918-508-7199 To register in English: 918-508-7142 Mary Lee*

**Denver, CO**

Contact: Ameer Stadler (720) 271-7406

Contact: Edith Gutierrez 303-775-4108 [edieg2@aol.com](mailto:edieg2@aol.com)

Contact: Lori Frank 303-904-7414 [lorgreg@msn.com](mailto:lorgreg@msn.com)

Friday, February 27, 2015

Sunday, March 01, 2015

**Palm Beach, FL**

Contact: Donna Gardner 561-602-4778 [isaiah61@bellsouth.net](mailto:isaiah61@bellsouth.net)

Friday, February 27, 2015

Sunday, March 01, 2015

**Trenton, NJ**

Contact: Judy Warenkiewicz 732-536-6871

[judywarren543@msn.com](mailto:judywarren543@msn.com)

Friday, February 27, 2015

Sunday, March 01, 2015

**Allentown, PA**

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

[mcole@allentowndioocese.org](mailto:mcole@allentowndioocese.org)

Language: Spanish

Friday, February 27, 2015

Sunday, March 01, 2015

**Mobile, AL**

Contact: Bridget 251-421-4313

[rachelsvineyardmobile@gmail.com](mailto:rachelsvineyardmobile@gmail.com)

Contact: Fr. Dan Good (251) 610-1847

[fatherdangood@me.com](mailto:fatherdangood@me.com)

Friday, February 27, 2015

Sunday, March 01, 2015

**Dallas, TX**

Contact: Maggie Lopez 214-544-2273

[mlopez@prolifedallas.org](mailto:mlopez@prolifedallas.org)

Friday, February 27, 2015

Sunday, March 01, 2015

**Janesville (Interdenom), WI**

Contact: Pregnancy Helpline 608-235-7542

[rancher868@charter.net](mailto:rancher868@charter.net)

Friday, February 27, 2015

Sunday, March 01, 2015