



Vine & Branches

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

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January 2017



Dear friends,

2016 has been a whirlwind of amazing accomplishments for Rachel's Vineyard Ministries! 41 new locations from around the world are up and running or in development! The retreats are currently offered in 33 languages! We held an International Leadership Conference in Peru, for all the Spanish Speaking Rachel's Vineyard teams throughout Latin America. There was also a leadership Conferences in Australia and Germany along with dozens of other training seminars for those who facilitate retreats and serve on teams.

We are excited to share a snapshot of our activities in 2016 in an end of year report. As we share our 2016 Review, we offer special thanks to Father Frank Pavone and Priests for Life/Gospel of Life. Rachel's Vineyard is blessed to be one of the family of ministries at Priests for Life working together to build a culture of life.

Our mission has been very successful! Our retreat programs and support groups bring Christ into direct communion and community with those who live in fear, isolation, shame, grief, and darkness. We provide group retreats that embrace those who suffer the loss of a child because of abortion with validation, compassion and understanding. No matter the level of destruction or pain, God wants to heal his wounded children and grant them a miraculous experience peace. It's real! As disciples of Love, we have been witnesses to reality. Jesus does not disappoint and that's the GOOD NEWS we share!

Our worldwide growth has been forged quietly in the crucible of suffering which was once hidden and unspoken in the hearts and minds of those grieving their babies lost in abortion. Our unique retreats, composed specifically and intentionally to give participants an undeniable experience of the Living God have spread like wildfire! They embody the eternal flame of the Holy Spirit ignited to burn in the hearts of those who have suffered excruciating trauma of abortion, bringing them back to life.

We embrace the determination, the vision, the perseverance and the passion! There are millions of people who desire to be touched in a personal and intimate way by grace. The time is here! The doors are open for a spring time of New Evangelization!

What's more, those who have been healed are passionately on fire to share the miracle they received with other peoples and places.

As a result of this, more than 300,000 volunteers throughout the world have been agents of evangelization and conduits of Christ's love in a valiant resolve to share the gift of healing they received. This is perhaps the biggest reason that our ministries have grown so rapidly. Healing begets more healing! The one redeemed and reconciled lays down their life in gratitude and service for Christ.

This is not a movement that could have been orchestrated by strategic planning, a large staff, a pretty building, huge donations, or lots of publicity. We had none of those things. Our ministry has grown despite massive obstacles and a long history of persecution. It is a movement of the Holy Spirit and a responsive apostolate that is accompanied by an unmistakable anointing.

We have been blessed to be stewards of this gift as we worked tirelessly to disseminate a truth that we knew could heal people. That truth is the person of Jesus Christ. He comes completely alive in the Living Scriptures Exercises unique to Rachel's Vineyard and his presence is unmistakable. As participants interact with each other and respond to his invitation in the activities, Jesus penetrates their hearts and they are forever changed. We witness miracles all the time and kneel in gratitude and humility in awe of God's presence and power.

Yours for Life in Christ,
Dr. Theresa Burke
Founder, Rachel's Vineyard Ministries



Click here to read 2016's End of Year Report
<http://www.rachelsvineyard.org/PDF/2016-year-review.pdf>



Rachel's Vineyard holds training in Wenatchee, Washington

Dr. Theresa Burke, lead a two day lay and clergy training in Washing state. There were three dioceses represented – Spokane, Yakima and the Diocese of Awka, Nigeria in Africa.

A total of 66 people attended the training in Wenatchee, WA, including 24 clergymen, four deacons' wives and Sr. Mary Rosanna Emenusiobi from Nigeria. She works full time in Nigeria's largest pro-life, pro-family educational group, Family-Light of the Nation Foundation.

This training was the brainchild of Teresa Drollman, who helped organize 40 Days for Life and has been working to start a new Rachel's Vineyard retreat site in Wenatchee. Chancellor Monsignor Robert Siller and Father Osmar Aguirre helped plan the conference along with the Rachel's Vineyard team.

Yakima Bishop Joseph Tyson, was also a big support in making this training happen. Bishop Tyson has initiated a program called, Prepares. It is a nurturing response of the catholic community to provide families the supportive services needed to help ensure healthy childhood development from pregnancy to age five. For more information click here: <http://www.preparesforlife.org/>.

“Father Peter Steele, ordained in May, shared that this training was invaluable, and ten clergy want to be on the new teams in Wenatchee, WA”. Dr. Burke explained that “this was a valuable trip to help a new team that seeks to offer English and Spanish retreats. There is a very large population of immigrant workers in agriculture who live in Wenatchee and Planned Parenthood is very active in advertising abortion to them. It's our goal to start a vibrant Latino ministry as well as the new English speaking retreats.”

Rachel's Vineyard weekend retreats for healing after abortion are presently being offered at 375 sites across the world and in over 70 countries, and the ministry continues to expand its outreach. Some Rachel's Vineyard retreats are hosted by church-based ministries, counseling outreach programs, diocesan Respect Life offices, and crisis pregnancy centers. It is offered in both Catholic and interdenominational settings.

“People who come to Rachel's Vineyard will meet people who care about them and the child or children lost to abortion,” said Father Frank Pavone, pastoral director. “The retreats are led by those who know the way of healing, and are ready to welcome all into a journey that leads to mercy and peace.”



Dr. Theresa Burke, Bishop Tyson and Sr. Mary

"There are far, far better things ahead
than any we leave behind."

~ C.S. Lewis

Feast of the Holy Innocents

1 John 1:5-2:2

Psalm 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8

Matthew 2:13-18

Rachel Still Weeps for Her Children!

Hardly an occasion for a feast! Today is the Feast of the Children cruelly massacred by Herod in an attempt to kill the newborn king of the Jews (see Matthew 2:1-18). Imagine the heart chilling fear, rage, desolation, confusion, and paralyzing sadness of their mothers! We would do well to reflect on their sorrow...

We also need to remember God's merciful love. God takes very personally anything done to the least of his brothers and sisters (Matthew 25:31-46). God will not forsake those infants. That is the occasion for a feast!

Today, other Holy Innocents include the aborted children of women who also carry great sorrow!

Some forty years ago I joined my high school students at a march against abortion. I knew intuitively that abortion was dreadful, but knew nothing about why a woman might seek an abortion. That soon changed. Incest survivors asked me to sponsor a support group in our parish, then battered women came for spiritual counseling, then women facing unintended pregnancies sought guidance. None of their stories were pleasant or easy to resolve!

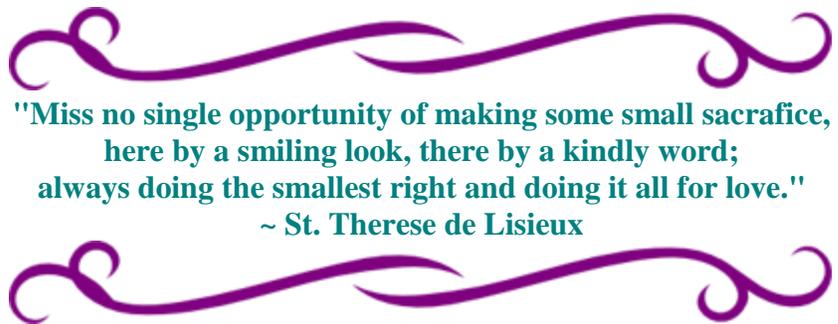
How does a fifteen year old whose parents threaten to throw her out "just say 'No' "?
How does a woman whose husband threatens to leave her if she has the baby "just say 'No' "?
"No' "?

How does a woman who has been raped, is unemployed, and has no family support “just say ‘No’ ”? To whom can a minor female, who is a pregnant victim of incest, risk to tell her story? Rightly or wrongly, many “Pro Life” Christians and organizations are seen to be oppressive toward women considering abortions. Many would be terrified to approach such a group.

Birthright is an organization to which I confidently refer such women. The 48 year old Birthright “treats each woman as an individual who deserves love and respect, as well as personal attention to her unique situation. We offer information and referrals to help clients meet their emotional and material needs” (birthright.org).

Rachel’s Vineyard offers “a supportive, confidential and non-judgmental environment where women and men can express, release and reconcile painful post-abortive emotions to begin the process of restoration, renewal and healing” (www.rachelsvineyard.org).

Fr. John M. Lee, C.P., is Retreat Director at Bishop Molloy Retreat House, “The Passionist Spiritual Center in New York City”, www.bishopmolloy.org



A Message from the Pastoral Director

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

January is a big month for our Rachel's Vineyard -- more emphasis on abortion in the headlines, major gatherings with testimonies in DC, San Francisco and elsewhere, increased web traffic from those who need healing, and more.

One of the things I most look forward to each January is the National Prayer Service, for which I am the principal organizer on the morning of the March for Life in Washington (see www.NationalPrayerService.com). This year it is on Friday morning, January 27th.

Can you be there? If you or others you know are coming to DC for the March for Life, what better way to start that day of public witness than to join with other Christians from around the country for two hours of prayer, praise and preaching!

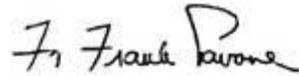
The service is in Constitution Hall from 8:30 to 10:30am. I will be preaching, and our award recipient and special guest speaker is Pam Tebow (mother of the famous Christian athlete Tim Tebow).

And as always, the theme of healing will be given special emphasis, and those who are present will be reminded of the power of Rachel's Vineyard!

Let's fill the place! Let's make it clear that prayer and worship are the foundation of the pro-life movement and of all the work we do to bring the world more into line with the Kingdom of God!

And please know of my prayers for you, your family and your intentions!

Sincerely,



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



**"You don't have to see the whole staircase.
Just take the first step."
~ Martin Luther King, Jr.**



A January Appeal

The New Year is a time for resolutions, change and new beginnings. This New Year, why not resolve to make a donation to your favorite healing ministry! You can make a one-time donation, or resolve to give a little every month. The money you donate will fuel the continued growth of Rachel's Vineyard. Be a part of healing men and women all over the world from the pain of abortion.

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

Choose how to make your donation:

Online www.RachelsVineyard.org/donate

By phone 610-354-0555

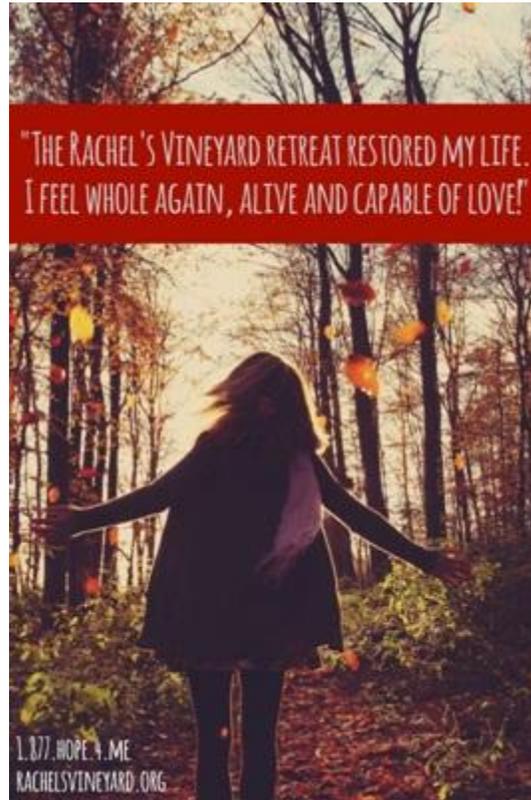
By mail PO Box 140130 Staten Island, NY 10314



**"Since love grows within you, so beauty grows.
For love is the beauty of the soul."
~ Augustine**



Rachel's Vineyard in Social Media



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

YouTube: www.youtube.com/user/rachelsvineyard

Twitter: www.twitter.com/RVHealing

Pinterest: www.pinterest.com/rachelsvineyard

Instagram: www.instagram.com/rvhealing

**"If you look at the world, you will be distressed.
If you look within, you will be depressed.
If you look at God, you will be at rest."**

~ Corrie ten Boom

United in Prayer

Please join us in prayer for those connected to our ministry who have recently passed away:

Lisa Toscani entered into eternal life right before Christmas after a 2 ½ year battle with lung cancer. Please keep her family in prayer, especially her 13 year old son Max, who was the light and joy of her life! Lisa and I began our pro-life efforts as members of Feminists for Life in the early 80's. She and I met with the editorial board of the Philadelphia Inquirer trying to bring attention to the link between abortion and breast cancer and publish some of the first articles on post abortion trauma. My friendship with Lisa was blessed by her creative artistic design. Lisa is the one who did the layout for the first Rachel's Vineyard Retreat manuals. She designed the original cover with the picture of the baby inside the Eucharistic cross. She was the genius behind The Abortion Changes You ad campaign designs and years of work creating beautiful materials for Project Rachel and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. She drew her inspiration from her Rachel's Vineyard experience and listening to the suffering of women and men after abortion. We brainstormed around many a campfire on camping trips by the Lake as we discussed what needed to change in the pro-life movement and the church's response. I know I will miss stopping by her house at odd hours and being greeted by her beautiful smile, her prayers and compassion amidst every struggle, and our lifetime friendship rooted in faith and advocacy for life. Her faith in Christ and his love for all of us was an inspiration and miracle for everyone who knew and loved her.

“But there was no need to be ashamed of tears. For tears bore witness that a man had the greatest of courage, the courage to suffer.”

– Victor Frankl

Please pray for the repose of soul of **Father Ronald J. Wasowski's** soul. He served for many years as a priest on the Rachel's Vineyard team in Portland Oregon. He also served as a priest on the Grief to Grace Retreats for healing abuse since we started them in Oregon. Father Ron was a brilliant Theologian, a teacher, and a gifted pastoral heart who served with love and gentleness. We are heartbroken that he will no longer be on the RV and Grief to Grace teams in person, but I know he will be very present from heaven! Father Ron had the gift of encouragement. He recently wrote: “Remember that Christ invites the strongest ones to walk most closely with Him in His Passion. He assured us that we are amazingly strong despite what we so often experience as weakness. Alone, nothing is possible; with Christ, all things are possible.”

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.”

– Matthew 5:4

Please pray for, **Melissa Landis**, aunt of Lairen Vogan, executive assistant for Rachel's Vineyard Headquarters. Melissa suffered a major heart attack during a routine operation. She is a survivor of lung cancer, and due to issues with the cancer treatment is unable to undergo surgery needed to correct issues with her heart. Please pray that the doctors are able to treat her unique situation swiftly and efficiently. Please also pray for a miracle of healing.



"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.
I do not give to you as the world gives.
Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."
~ John 14:27



Upcoming Grief to Grace Retreats
Healing the Wounds of Abuse
Reclaiming the Gift of Human Dignity
www.GriefftoGrace.org

Houston, TX (Non-Denominational)

Contact: G2Gtexas@griefftoGrace.org 254-383-1717

January 14 - January 18, 2017

July 1 - July 5, 2017

London, UK

Contact: g2guk@yahoo.co.uk

Call: 020 7937 4297 / 07849 029 442 / 07770 373 758

5th - 10th February 2017

Aston, PA (Philadelphia)

Contact: info@griefftoGrace.org 610-203-2002

March 5-10, 2017

Tasmania, Australia

Contact: info@griefftoGraceaus.org.au

March 26-31, 2017

Kelowna, BC, Canada

Contact: G2GKelowna@gmail.com

Call: 250-878-7603

May 4-7, 2017

Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN

Contact: diane@griefftoGrace.org

Call: 612-440-7247

August 20-25, 2017

Phoenix, AZ

Contact: Aryn Sylvester

Call: 480-215-6762

July 9-14, 2017

October 1-6, 2017



"The enemy tricks us into believing we are not good enough because he knows if we discover the truth, we'll be unstoppable."
~ Holley Gerth



Upcoming Rachel's Vineyard Training Events

Anaheim, CA - Guest Speaker

On February 25, 2017 Dr. Theresa Burke will be presenting two workshops at the Religious Education Congress.

To register online: www.recongress.org

For more information, email: congress@la-archdiocese.org



"Your grace abounds in deepest waters."
~ "Above the Waves (Where feet May Fail), by Hillsong



Upcoming Rachel's Vineyard Retreats

Newark, NJ

Contact: Cheryl Riley

973-497-4350

rileyche@rcan.org

Language: Spanish

Friday, January 6, 2017

Sunday, January 8, 2017

Bowling Green/Owensboro, KY

Contact: Jennifer (931) 242-5506

jennifer@hopeafterabortionky.com

Contact: Debbie Ward

(270) 570-4717

debbie@hopeafterabortionky.com

Friday, January 13, 2017

Sunday, January 15, 2017

Sioux Falls, SD

Contact: Dr. Marcie Moran 605-988-3775

Contact: Margi Culhane

1-800-700-7867

mculhane@sfcatholic.org

Friday, January 13, 2017

Sunday, January 15, 2017

Note: Scholarships available

Mt. View/Santa Clara Valley (Interdenominational), CA

Contact: Shirley Poitier

408-837-0990

Shirley@realoptions.net

Friday, January 20, 2017

Sunday, January 22, 2017

San Jose/Greater South Bay (Interdenominational), CA

Contact: Shirley Poitier 408-837-0990 Shirley@realoptions.net

Friday, January 20, 2017

Sunday, January 22, 2017

Santa Cruz Valley (Interdenominational), CA

Contact: Shirley Poitier 408-837-0990 Shirley@realoptions.net

Friday, January 20, 2017

Sunday, January 22, 2017

Pittsburgh, PA

Contact: Toni Jester 412-352-5348 toniafj1@comcast.net

Friday, January 20, 2017

Sunday, January 22, 2017

Spokane, WA

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

Friday, January 20, 2017

Sunday, January 22, 2017

Stevens Point, WI

Contact: Lisa Sommers 715-204-9561 RVStevensPoint@gmail.com

Friday, January 20, 2017

Monday, January 22, 2018

Vancouver, BC

Contact: Doreen Yung 604-525-0999 vrv@rcav.org

Contact: Life, Marriage and Family Office 604-683-0281 vrv@rcav.org

Friday, January 27, 2017

Sunday, January 29, 2017

Atlanta, GA

Contact: Jody Duffy 404-717-5557 pathjody@gmail.com

Friday, January 27, 2017

Sunday, January 29, 2017

Paterson/Morris County, NJ

Contact: Marie Ryan 973-377-1004 ext 425 rvmaterson@gmail.com

Friday, January 27, 2017

Sunday, January 29, 2017

Stroud, Gloucestershire, GL

Contact: Sona 07900 734207 info@rachelsvineyard.org.uk

Friday, February 3, 2017

Sunday, February 5, 2017

Oakland/East Bay (Español), CA

Contact: Gloria (510) 384-6875 gloriamaldonado375@sbcglobal.net

Friday, February 3, 2017

Sunday, February 5, 2017

Note: Retreat held in Danville, CA

Denver, CO

Contact: Lori Frank 303-904-7414

lorgreg@msn.com

Contact: Edith Gutierrez 303-775-4108

edieg2@aol.com

Friday, February 3, 2017

Sunday, February 5, 2017

Steubenville, OH

Contact: Sharon Maedke 740-632-5512

steubenvillerv@gmail.com

Friday, February 3, 2017

Sunday, February 5, 2017

Houston (Interdenominational), TX

Contact: April 281-236-8719

april@gulfcoasthealing.org

Contact: Shay Christophson 281-799-2002

shay@gulfcoasthealing.org

Contact: Stephanie Walker 713-690-2210

steph@gulfcoasthealing.org

Friday, February 3, 2017

Sunday, February 5, 2017

Glasgow, England

Contact: Andrea Fraile 07816942824

andreafraile74@gmail.com

Friday, February 10, 2017

Sunday, February 12, 2017

Cypress/Katy (Interdenominational), TX

Contact: Mary Lee Mason 254-383-1717

rvinfo@newheartoftexas.org

Friday, February 10, 2017

Sunday, February 12, 2017

Fort Hood / Killeen (Interdenominational), TX

Contact: Lovette Vassar 254-289-1595

aclassic74vette@aol.com

Friday, February 10, 2017

Sunday, February 12, 2017

Sacramento, CA

Contact: Paula Segno 916-733-0161

projectrachel@scd.org

Friday, February 17, 2017

Sunday, February 19, 2017

Jacksonville/St. Augustine, FL

Contact: Jackie Love 904-294-1884

rachelsvineyardjax@yahoo.com

Contact: Rachel 904-221-3232

rachelsvineyardjax@yahoo.com

Friday, February 17, 2017

Sunday, February 19, 2017

Lansing, MI

Contact: Cecelia Tombelli 517-993-0291

nlc@resurrectionlansing.org

888-456-HOPE

nlc@resurrectionlansing.org

Friday, February 17, 2017

Sunday, February 19, 2017

Columbus, OH

Contact: Pegi Deeter 614-721-2100

PegiD@pdhc.org

Friday, February 17, 2017

Sunday, February 19, 2017

Tulsa, OK

Contact: Mary Lee 918-508-7142 marylee@cctulsa.org

Friday, February 17, 2017

Sunday, February 19, 2017

Williamsburg, VA

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

Friday, February 17, 2017

Sunday, February 19, 2017

Vienna, Austria

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

info@rachelsweinberg.at

Contact: Tara Harbeck – Interdenominational tarinska73@yahoo.com

Language: German

Friday, February 24, 2017

Sunday, February 26, 2017

Bologna, Italy

Contact: Responsabili Nord-Centro-Sud Monika Rodman e Domenico Montanaro
39.099.7724.518 info.vignadirachele@yahoo.it

Language: Italian

Friday, February 24, 2017

Sunday, February 26, 2017

Tucson, AZ

Contact: Gail Phelps 520-743-6777 rachelsvineyardtucson@cox.net

Friday, February 24, 2017

Sunday, February 26, 2017

Lake Charles, LA

Contact: Marjorie Long 337-439-7400 ext317

rachels.vineyard@lcdioocese.org

Friday, February 24, 2017

Sunday, February 26, 2017

Grand Rapids, MI

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

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

Friday, February 24, 2017

Sunday, February 26, 2017

Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN

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

Friday, February 24, 2017

Sunday, February 26, 2017

Kansas City, MO

Contact: Teresa O'Donnell 1-816-679-4973 rvkcmo@gmail.com

Friday, February 24, 2017

Sunday, February 26, 2017

Janesville (Interdenominational), WI

Contact: Cheryl Ryan 608-235-7542

Contact: Pregnancy Helpline 608-755-9739

Friday, February 24, 2017

Sunday, February 26, 2017

cheryl@pregnancy-helpline.net