



Vine & Branches

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

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JULY 2017

Save the Date!



DEAR Rachel's Vineyard Team Members,

We are so happy to invite you to our 11th Rachel's Vineyard International Leadership Conference! It will be held September 24-27, 2018 at the Malvern Retreat House in Malvern, PA. We have invited a variety of speakers to address a range of topics. Dr. Theresa Burke has been working hard to bring you some fabulous new classes on topics that have never before been discussed in post abortion conferences.

It has been 7 years since the last International Leadership Conference and there is so much to be discussed. It is now more important than ever to bring everyone together for four days of education, fellowship and prayer. This is also a great way for those who are looking to learn more about Rachel's Vineyard and post-abortion healing as well as network with volunteers and leaders from around the world. This conference promises to be wonderful and engaging.

We are looking forward to seeing you all there in 2018!!

Traveling Through the Storm

By: Eileen Kuhlman

A dark and somber cloud-filled evening commanded by strong wind, rain and hail is what our retreatants had to navigate in order to get to Rachel's Vineyard. The storm was born just as they began to travel in our direction.

For some, that was nothing in comparison to the shame and anguish they felt inside. For others, they called me filled with fear as they huddled under bridges taking refuge from the hail. They wondered if they could make it. Could God make it they wondered? They wondered if this was a sign...should they turn around and go back. I spoke with each one reminding them of what God wanted to offer them and how He would provide everything they needed to get through this storm and others like it if they would simply trust Him. One by one, they appeared and we rejoiced with their safe arrivals.

God brought us souls from a similar age group and similar life stories where we discovered so much more than abortion stories surfacing as God lovingly touched each wound and embraced them as they re-discovered their voice and shared what no ears had heard before. We watched as those who had been away from the Church for so long, began to mouth the prayers again in Mass and remember what a Church community could feel like as we worshipped together.

And then we rejoiced as it was time for worship again on Sunday and my team and I turned around only to find that they had been transformed. They radiated peace and joy and dressed up for Mass along with makeup and jewelry. They were all such beautiful women on the outside, now radiating from every pore an inner beauty that had been hiding behind closed doors for so long. We celebrated them as they walked towards us and they laughed together enjoying the attention and I know for some they had not heard their own laughter in many years.

The storm they had driven through to get there, complete with hail and wind, only represented the hailstones of anger and pain mixed with the turbulent winds of shame and regret they carried inside. All this had been left at His altar leaving only His radiant beauty within... which was overflowing in every way possible.

And their message to you.....

"I learned I can call my children by name and I am certain of where they are. I never had that before. What a peace this has given me."

"I didn't think I was in that much need, and I thought I was to live that way until my death, yet I leave completely transformed."

"I will always yearn for my child in my arms, but now I am in peace. I have broken free from the painful cycle in which I was stuck for so many years."

"God has told me I am a new woman now and all things I can do in Him and with His strength. I carried so many burdens for so long and I found out today they were not even my burdens to carry. My family paid that price. But I am a new woman now and I refuse to carry those burdens any more."

The storms have moved on and His beautiful and merciful harvest has been received. All glory and praise be to the one and only Master of the Vineyard.



Bishop Greg Kelly and the Dallas, TX Rachel's Vineyard retreat team

**"Be strong and courageous.
Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged,
for the Lord your God will be with you
wherever you go."
~ Joshua 1:9**

How Everything Changed the Moment this Rape Victim Saw her Baby By: Jenny Farrell

From the moment I met Haley, I knew she was special. She came to our center for help with an unplanned pregnancy, and by the look of fear and pain in her eyes, it was evident she was deeply troubled.

During the initial interview, Haley readily answered my questions. However, when I inquired about the father of the baby, she just shook her head—her eyes flooding with tears.

In a soft voice, Haley told me about Jose. She spoke about what had drawn her to him—how he could be fun and charming in his way. He was also ten years her senior and had lived a pretty wild life, including being a past gang member. When he began pressuring her for sex, she'd made it clear that wasn't going to happen. Still, Haley expressed feelings of shame for ever spending time with the man.

Then came the morning she woke up feeling disoriented. Soon she became aware of dizziness and how her vision was blurred. That symptom remained for hours.

Gradually, Haley became more alert. Suddenly, she was aware of being naked from the waist down. Her body ached, and there was a small amount of blood. Choking back a sob, she said that's when she knew she'd been raped.

By that point, I wanted to wrap my arms around her—to somehow erase all the pain she had endured. My heart cried out to the only One who can heal all wounds.

When the nausea and vomiting began, Haley had taken a pregnancy test. The moment she saw the two pink lines she said it felt as if she were sliding toward the edge of a very high cliff.

Although Haley had always been pro-life, she still considered abortion. If she'd been too ashamed to report the rape, how would she be able to endure all the stares and the questions once her body was unable to keep its secret?

During the ultrasound portion of the visit, I was particularly alert to Haley's needs. Despite knowing it might be difficult for her to see the baby, I was pleased when she gave her consent to turn on the big screen.

Nothing could have prepared me for her reaction. Instead of wearing an expression of pain, the moment her eyes locked onto her tiny baby her face was transformed by a look of wonder and awe. Her response nearly took my breath away.

At just seven weeks from conception, the images were exquisitely detailed. Quite active, the baby began moving his little arms and legs and flipping all around—almost as though he were performing.

“It's so amazing...I had no idea the baby would already be moving! And look how fast the heart is beating!”

Instead of needing to offer comfort, there were tears of joy on Haley's cheeks. I was able to join this brave young woman in celebrating the miracle of life.

To this day, after eleven years of introducing moms and dads to their babies via ultrasound, Haley's response far eclipses everyone else's. The fact that this child was a result of rape makes her reaction all the more stunning and precious.

By the time Haley came to our center, she was not strongly considering abortion. However, at that point, she hadn't told anyone about the pregnancy. Soon, she would face incredible pressure to abort. **Seeing her baby on the ultrasound screen that day settled the question of abortion once and for all. No matter what she would face—she was determined to choose life for her child.**

Recently, I caught up with Haley. She's currently working as an occupational therapist. A few years ago she married Thomas, who then adopted Bennett and has been a wonderful father to him ever since. Soon, Bennett will celebrate his seventh birthday. Haley describes her son as “bright and inquisitive, with an incredibly tender heart.”

Haley and her husband are now walking through the painful journey of infertility. More than ever they thank God for their precious boy. The Lord may yet bless them with other biological children, or perhaps they will be blessed with a child to adopt. Regardless, they will take delight in the evidence of how “God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose,” Romans 8:28.

So I am grateful to serve every woman who walks through the doors of Pregnancy Resources or who seeks help from the Medical Mobile Unit. Why?

Because these are places I can freely share the love of Christ, extending hope...perhaps for the first time.

Many women, just like Haley, have faced intense pressure to abort a child conceived in rape. Even those who consider themselves pro-life sometimes wonder if abortion might be the more “merciful choice” when the pregnancy is the result of such a violent act. They believe abortion will somehow reduce the woman’s suffering, allowing her to heal more quickly.

However, in most cases, this couldn’t be further from the truth. Violence never “cures” violence. Abortion doesn’t only end the baby’s life. In truth, abortion can re-traumatize a woman who has already been violated on so many levels.

Here is what Theresa Burke, Ph.D., Founder of Rachel’s Vineyard Ministries, says in her article, Healing after Abortion:

“I have listened to the stories of over two thousand individuals – women and men whose lives have been impacted by the violence of abortion; women who suffered the repercussions of a cruel and degrading procedure which many describe as more brutal and violent than rape. Each shared bitter tears of regret as they struggled with a secret guilt, shame, grief, and anger...”

[Sandra Mahkorn, MD](#), a family physician and former counselor for sexual assault victims, has worked with women who conceived as a result of rape. She cites studies which have shown, “...the majority of those who had abortions (from pregnancies resulting from rape) regretted having done so and said the abortions caused them additional problems. By contrast, among those who delivered a child conceived by rape, satisfaction was higher, and none stated any regret for having given birth.”

Bennett is an incredible blessing. In fact, Haley believes her little boy helped save her life! Despite the circumstances surrounding his conception, this little boy continues to give his mom a new sense of purpose—and more joy than she ever imagined.

**Jenny A. Farrell, RN, ministers in pregnancy centers and aboard a Stork Mobile Medical Unit. Utilizing “The Power of The Story,” she also touches lives as an author and speaker. Jenny’s new book, *Ribbon of Redemption: True Stories Offering Hope and Healing after Abortion*, is available at jennyafarrell.com.



**"Sometimes the smallest things
take up the most room in your heart."**

~ A.A. Milne



Message from the Pastoral Director

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The celebration of Independence Day each year inspires me to renew my commitment to the work of ending abortion and healing those wounded by it.

The reason is that there are so many intrinsic connections between what we celebrate on the 4th of July and what we work for in the pro-life effort.

Our nation didn't come together because of geography or ethnicity, but because of principle: the principle that we're free when we acknowledge God and the rights he has given us -- rights that governments are meant to secure (not edit or delete).

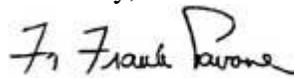
First among those rights is life.

Put another way, then, there is no freedom without the right to life. What we celebrate on Independence Day is that we are free from tyrannical power that would dictate that some are less equal than others, that some are protected while others can be destroyed.

And the healing work we do, of course, can be described as leading people to freedom -- freedom from the guilt, despair, shame, and multiple wounds that abortion brings.

Let's all renew our dedication to the cause of life and of healing!

Sincerely,



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



**"It is only with the heart that one can see rightly;
what is essential is invisible to the eye."
~ Antoine de Saint-Exupery**



An Independence Day Appeal

As we celebrate our independence and freedom this July, let us encourage those suffering after an abortion to experience freedom through a Rachel's Vineyard retreat weekend. Rachel's Vineyard is a safe, loving place to find peace and healing after abortion.

Rachel's Vineyard is a non-profit ministry that is able to serve those in need through the donations of our wonderful supporters.

Here's how to make a donation:

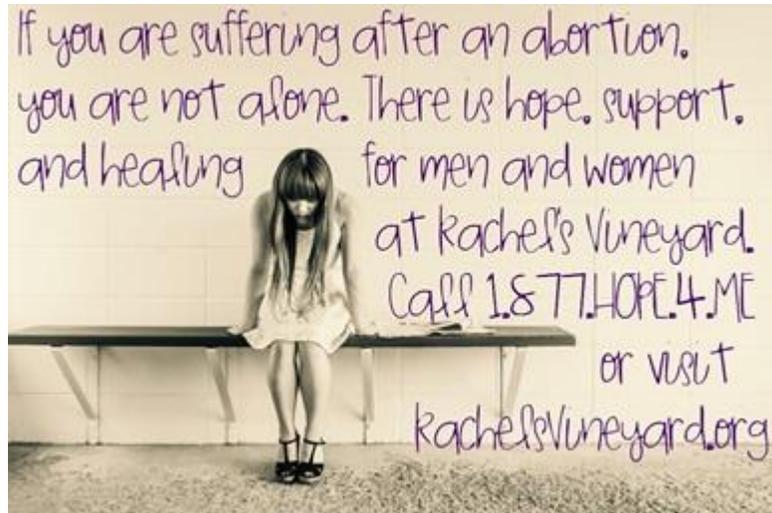
Online: www.RachelsVineyard.org/donate

By Phone: 610-354-0555

By Mail: P.O. Box 140130 Staten Island, NY 10314

**"Use me, God.
Show me how to take who I am,
who I want to be, and what I can do,
and use it for a purpose greater than myself."
~ Martin Luther King Jr.**

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

**"The more we let God take us over,
the more truly ourselves we become."
~ C.S. Lewis**

United in Prayer

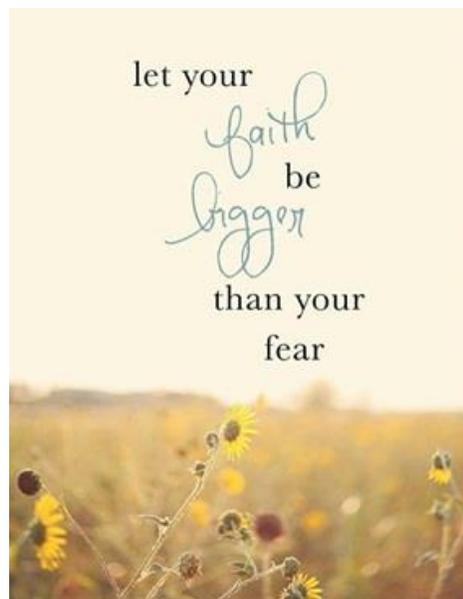
Please pray for the repose of **Bishop David Choby's** soul. Bishop Choby was a dear friend and long-time supporter of Rachel's Vineyard. He was a wonderful man who will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

Please pray for **Matthew Cameron**, the brother of our dear friend Fr. Ben Cameron. Matthew has been battling cancer, and receiving radiation, chemotherapy, and has been preparing for Car T-cell immune therapy. We pray for peace, comfort, and healing during this difficult time.

"We need everyone to continue storming heaven with your prayers!! For those of you who are praying the novena: please remember to pray each day, offer your Mass, Holy Communion, and Eucharistic Devotions for Matthew. Please join us in continuing to pray the prayer for the intercession of Fr. Augustus Tolton for Matthew -- until we have a cure (either miraculous healing, or if it be the Lord's will, through the medical treatment)."
-Fr. Ben Cameron

Please keep **Tom Lepak**, Susan Lepak's husband in your prayers. Susan is a former Rachel's Vineyard site leader. Tom is battling cancer and the treatments seem to be taking a toll on his body. Please pray that he is able to regain the use of his legs and feet.

Please pray for **Murray White**, Joan White's husband. Joan is a longtime supporter and friend to Rachel's Vineyard. Murray was in an accident about a month ago and is now struggling to regain the use of his body. Please pray for healing and strength, especially around his neck.



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

July 1 - July 5, 2017

Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN

Contact: diane@griefftoGrace.org

Call: 612-440-7247

August 20-25, 2017

October 21-26, 2018

Phoenix, AZ

Contact: Aryn Sylvester

Call: 480-215-6762

July 9-14, 2017

October 1-6, 2017

March 4-9, 2018

Newark, NJ

Contact: info@griefftoGrace.org

Call: 610-203-2002

September 10-15, 2017

Beaverton, OR

Contact: griefftoGraceoregon@gmail.com

Call: 541-357-7501

September 13-17, 2017

El Salvador

Contact: anajhill@hotmail.com

Call: Ana Julia Hill - 503 77297721

Call: Nueva Alianza – 503 22987000

August 17-20, 2017

November 9-12, 2017

Buenos Aires, Argentina

Contact: Fr. Matías Jurado

Call: +54 11 5220 3619

Email: padrematias@gmail.com

August 24-27, 2017



"For with God, *nothing* shall be impossible."
~ Luke 1:37



Upcoming Rachel's Vineyard Training Events

On **July 6-8, 2017**, Dr. Theresa Burke will be holding a training for priests, deacons, laity, pastoral ministers, counselors, catechists, and retreat teams in Phoenix, AZ. For more information, call 480-215-6762.

On **Saturday September 9, 2017**, Dr. Theresa Burke will be the Keynote speaker at the Gulf Coast Mercies 2nd Annual Benefit Dinner in Houston, TX.

For more information contact: Susan Racciato at Sue@gulfcoasthealing.org

On **March 17-18, 2018**, Theresa and Kevin Burke will hold a Clinical, Clergy, and Rachel's Vineyard Team Training in Tucson, Arizona.

For more information contact: Gail Phelps at rachelsvineyardtucson@cox.net.



Upcoming Rachel's Vineyard Retreats

Paterson/Morris County, NJ

Contact: Marie Ryan

973-377-1004 ext 425

rvmaterson@gmail.com

Friday, June 30, 2017

Sunday, July 2, 2017

Ann Arbor, MI

Contact: Beth Bauer

734-879-0427

toheal4give@outlook.com

Friday, July 7, 2017

Sunday, July 9, 2017

Charleston, SC

Contact: Christy 803-554-6088

grace4healing@gmail.com

Contact: Kathy 803-546-6010

kcs6010@gmail.com

Friday, July 7, 2017

Sunday, July 9, 2017

Lake Charles, LA

Contact: Marjorie Long 337-439-7400

ext317 rachels.vineyard@lcdioocese.org

Friday, July 7, 2017

Sunday, July 9, 2017

Springfield, MA

Contact: Jean Suddaby 413-452-0661

Contact: Suzanne DeFriesse 203-417-0504

luvthegospa@hotmail.com

Friday, July 7, 2017

Sunday, July 9, 2017

Cartagena, Colombia

Contact: Maylen Silva Aguirre 300-803-7871

msilva650@hotmail.com

Language: Spanish

Friday, July 14, 2017

Sunday, July 16, 2017

Denver, CO

Contact: Lori Frank 303-904-7414

lorgreg@msn.com

Contact: Edith Gutierrez 303-775-4108

edieg2@aol.com

Friday, July 14, 2017

Sunday, July 16, 2017

Essex, England

Contact: Pam Nelson 07851331816

pamnelson566@gmail.com

Friday, July 14, 2017

Sunday, July 16, 2017

Mesa, AZ

Contact: Karen Ord 480-329-6795

karenord.rv@gmail.com

Friday, July 14, 2017

Sunday, July 16, 2017

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 14, 2017

Sunday, July 16, 2017

Bologna, Italy

Contact: Responsabili Nord-Centro-Sud Monika Rodman e Domenico Montanaro

39.099.7724.518 info.vignadirachele@yahoo.it

Language: Italian

Friday, July 21, 2017

Sunday, July 23, 2017

Corpus Christi, TX

Contact: Tammy Romo-Alcala 361-510-4684

ccrachelsvineyard@gmail.com

Friday, July 21, 2017

Sunday, July 23, 2017

Fresno, CA

Contact: Jennifer Butcher 877-629-6626

butcher_jennifer@yahoo.comContact: Paula and Edward Davalos – Español
8537 paula.d@fbcares.org

888-686-

Friday, July 21, 2017

Sunday, July 23, 2017

Sacramento, CA

Contact: Paula Segno 916-733-0161

projectrachel@scd.org

Friday, July 21, 2017

Sunday, July 23, 2017

Blair/Omaha (Interdenominational), NE

Contact: Linda Degner 402-670-5145

RachelsVineyardNE@outlook.com

Friday, July 28, 2017

Sunday, July 30, 2017

Central Indiana, IN

Contact: Jennie Hack 765-404-9583

jenniehack@gmail.com

Contact: David Bangs 765-860-6006

dlbangs1@gmail.com

Friday, July 28, 2017

Sunday, July 30, 2017

Houston, TX

Contact: Cindy 713-825-0649

cindy@rvhouston.org

Contact: Julie Fritsch 713-741-8728

Friday, July 28, 2017

Sunday, July 30, 2017

Houston (Interdenominational), TX

Contact: Shay Christophson 281-799-2002

shay@gulfcoasthealing.org

Contact: Stephanie Walker 281-974-7880

steph@gulfcoasthealing.org

Friday, July 28, 2017

Sunday, July 30, 2017

Sioux City, IA

Contact: Stormy Poss 712-898-5550

RachelshelpersofIowa@gmail.com

Friday, July 28, 2017

Sunday, July 30, 2017

Burkburnett/Fort Worth/Glen Rose/Wichita Falls, TX

Contact: Betsy Kopor 817-923-4757

forgiven@racheltx.org

Denomination: Interdenominational

Friday, August 4, 2017

Sunday, August 6, 2017

*Note: Retreat to be held in Weatherford***Los Angeles (Español), CA**

Contact: Raquel 626-290-8333

Friday, August 4, 2017

Sunday, August 6, 2017

Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN

Contact: Nancy Blom 763-250-9313

rachels@rvineyardmn.org

Friday, August 4, 2017

Sunday, August 6, 2017

Seattle/Western Washington, WA

Contact: Valerie Jacobs 800-822-HOPE

valeriepr@aol.com

Contact: (Español) Marisela 206-450-7814

valeriepr@aol.com

Friday, August 4, 2017

Sunday, August 6, 2017

Note: Retreat held in Stanwood, WA

York County, PA

Contact: Becky Biter – English 717-788-4959
undefeatedcourage@gmail.com

Contact: Rocio Alcantara/Omar Osornio – Spanish (717) 788-4959
vdryorkpa@gmail.com

Friday, August 4, 2017

Sunday, August 6, 2017

Bogota Central, Colombia

Contact: Myriam Fernandez 300-444-1016

Language: Spanish

Saturday, August 5, 2017

Monday, August 7, 2017

Bogota, Colombia

Contact: Marta Elena Soto 315 8111118

Language: Spanish

Friday, August 11, 2017

Sunday, August 13, 2017

Cypress/Katy (Interdenominational), TX

Contact: Mary Lee Mason 254-383-1717

rvinfo@newheartoftexas.org

Friday, August 11, 2017

Sunday, August 13, 2017

Lansing, MI

Contact: Cecilia Tombelli 517-993-0291
888-456-HOPE

nlc@resurrectionlansing.org

Friday, August 11, 2017

Sunday, August 13, 2017

Medellin, Colombia

Contact: Margarita Agudelo 316-657-8585

entretusmanos33@gmail.com

Language: Spanish

Friday, August 11, 2017

Sunday, August 13, 2017

Minneapolis/St. Paul (Interdenominational), MN

Contact: Kathy Kawell 507-213-1102

kathyprojecthealing@gmail.com

Friday, August 11, 2017

Sunday, August 13, 2017

Janesville (Interdenominational), WI

Contact: Cheryl Ryan 608-235-7542

Contact: Pregnancy Helpline 608-755-9739

cheryl@pregnancy-helpline.net

Friday, August 18, 2017

Sunday, August 20, 2017

Miami (Español), FL

Contact: Jackie Guillen 305-302-9436

clamordevida@aim.com

Friday, August 18, 2017

Sunday, August 20, 2017

North of Boston, MA

Contact: Diane Simoni 508-243-7481

rachelsvineyardMA@gmail.com

Denomination: Interdenominational

Friday, August 18, 2017

Sunday, August 20, 2017

Fort Hood/Killeen (Interdenominational), TX

Contact: Susie Wilde 254-718-2823

swilde58@gmail.com

Friday, August 25, 2017

Sunday, August 27, 2017

Houston, TX

Contact: Cindy 713-825-0649

cindy@rvhouston.org

Contact: Julie Fritsch 713-741-8728

Friday, August 25, 2017

Sunday, August 27, 2017

Trenton, NJ

Contact: Judy Warenkiewicz 732-536-6871

judywarren543@msn.com

Friday, August 25, 2017

Sunday, August 27, 2017

Yuma, AZ

Contact: Karen Medel 928-919-3559

kmedel65@yahoo.com

Contact: Kristy Lien 928-304-8000

kristy@amen4life.org

Friday, August 25, 2017

Sunday, August 27, 2017