

A Word From Our Pastoral Director



Dear Friends,

This year marks the tenth anniversary of Pope John Paul II's Encyclical Letter "The Gospel of Life" (*Evangelium Vitae*), which was published on March 25, 1995. It was published on that day because that is the Feast of the Annunciation, when God became an unborn child through the Holy Spirit and the "Yes" of His mother Mary. It is a good occasion to read (or re-read) the document (see www.priestsforlife.org/magisterium/gospeloflife.html).

This anniversary is also taking place during a special "Year of the Eucharist," which the Church is observing from October 2004 through October 2005. This observance leads us to reflect on the same fact: In Christ, God took on flesh, became visible, shared our humanity, and allowed us to touch Him.

As we conduct our Rachel's Vineyard ministry in these coming months, let's allow these two special occasions to inform, enrich, and invigorate our work and our experiences. In "The Gospel of Life," the Pope speaks directly to those wounded by abortion, urging them to have courage. In the Incarnation, we meet "God with us," who is named "Jesus" precisely because he will save his people from their sins. These themes all come together so powerfully to enable us to stand before a broken world and a wounded soul and say, "Take courage! He is calling you! He is with you! He has saved you and your children!" God bless you!

Sincerely,
Fr. Frank Pavone
Pastoral Director

Upcoming Rachel's Vineyard Retreat Schedule

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June 17-19
+ Long Island / Uniondale, NY
Contact: Frank & Lorraine Gariboldi
(516) 523-0586

+ Wichita, KS
Contact: Yvonne / Lori (316) 269-4673
or 888-456-4673 (statewide only)

June 24-26
+ Columbia/Harrisburg, PA
Contact: Joy Crimmins (717) 993-5450

+ Sacramento, CA
Contact: Kathy Conner (916) 733-0140

+ Tulsa, OK
Contact: Mary Lee (918) 585-8167
Ext. 212

July 1-3
+ Sydney, Australia
Contact: Julie Kelley 02 9440 7980

July 8-10
+ Charlotte, NC / Rock Hill, SC
Contact: Martha (336) 659-1342

July 15-17
+ Allentown, PA
Contact: Maryann Dunn (866) 372-2435

July 22-24
+ Melbourne, Australia
Note: Interdenominational
Contact: Anne Neville 61 3 9870 7044

+ Fresno, CA
Contact: Jennifer Butcher (877) 629-6626

July 29-31
+ Sonoma County, CA
Contact: Monika (510) 267-8335

For schedule updates, please visit our website at www.rachelsvineyard.org



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A Ministry of Priests for Life
www.rachelsvineyard.org

Weekend Retreats

Rachel's Vineyard weekend retreats for emotional and spiritual healing after abortion are held internationally. Rachel's Vineyard welcomes women, men, couples, grandparents and 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.

Keep hope close to your heart. It kindles your courage, strengthens your purpose, and renews your commitment to life.

—Anon

Hope is the companion of power, and mother of success; for who so hopes strongly has within him the gift of miracles.

—Samuel Smiles

Spread The News!

Help us spread the Good News! Pass along this newsletter to friends and colleagues. Visit our website: www.rachelsvineyard.org

'I Will Never Forget You...'

By Susan Gliko

It is Sunday Mass and we are singing:

"I will never forget you, My people. I have carved you on the palm of My Hand. I will never forget you; I will not leave you orphans; I will never forget My own. Would a mother forget her baby? Or a woman the child within her womb? Yet even if these forget, yes, even if these forget, I will never forget My own (Isaiah 49).

These words from Scripture, put to music by Carey Landry, used to cause

a deep ache in my heart. I once *tried* to forget the child within my womb; my child lost to abortion.

Abortion is a deeply traumatic experience and was so for me back in 1989. I was in crisis. My mother was gravely ill. I had no one to turn to—and those I did reach out to all said abortion was the best choice. I chose abortion because I felt it was my *only choice*, which means I had *no choice*. I went against everything that I believed in thinking it would spare my mother in her fragile condition.

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Remembering An Incredible Saint

By Theresa Burke, Ph.D.

I will never forget the first letter I received from Mother Teresa of Calcutta. I had sent her the first edition of *Rachel's Vineyard - A Psychological and Spiritual Journey for Healing After Abortion*—the original 15-week support group model.

My contact with Mother Teresa came through my brother, a physician who frequently treated the nuns serving in one of Mother Teresa's homeless shelters in our neighboring town of Norristown, Pa. One of the sisters took the book with her to India and hand-delivered it to Mother Teresa. It was the beginning of what continues to be a very special bond between Rachel's Vineyard and this extraordinary

woman of God, who shared such an intense passion for the tender work of healing and restoration that occurs when we allow ourselves to be used by Christ to touch those who feel abandoned, forsaken and rejected—especially the unborn baby taken from the womb and the parents who grieve their lost child. Mother Teresa wrote me the following beautiful letter of encouragement. I want to share it with you to encourage

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Theresa Burke

Our national toll-free hotline is (877) HOPE-4-ME

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Remembering Mother Teresa of Calcutta

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you in the work we are doing. I especially love the last paragraph. It is the perfect advice for anyone who works with or helps to support Rachel's Vineyard:

Thank you very much for all that you are doing for God to bring his love and compassion and mercy to those who have had abortions in the past.

I am grateful to God and to you for this very beautiful work, which you have done. Jesus Himself said that He came to call sinners and not the self-righteous. I pray that Rachel's Vineyard may bring God's tender love and compassion to those who need His peace so much. I pray for all those who use it, seeking His peace, may open their hearts and allow God to restore them to wholeness and happiness.

Let Jesus continue to use you as His



instrument by allowing Him to love others through you. He will be free to use you in the measure that you are open to Him, allowing Him to radiate His love through you. I am praying much for you.

God bless you, Mother Teresa

I have prayed to Mother Teresa since her death to intercede

for this ministry—that everyone who is willing to work with Rachel's Vineyard in the slums of the soul will reflect the compassionate face of Christ to all those with whom they come in contact.

Feeding The Poor in Spirit!

Rachel's Vineyard is living Mother Teresa's legacy by feeding the poor in spirit—those *desperate souls hungry for hope, consolation and heal-*

ing. Come labor with us in the Vineyard. Join us in rescuing women and men today from the slums of the soul by sending a tax-deductible donation of \$1,000, \$500, or \$100. Your contribution will enable us to bring God's healing presence to one more person, a person like Susan Gliko, traumatized by abortion but who later heroically turned her grief into good by becoming God's instrument of love (see her story on page 1). Join our efforts either by sending a contribution to the address below, or by visiting our website at: www.rachelsvineyard.org/support/support.htm to contribute via credit card or PayPal. You also can send an e-mail directly to me at t.burke@rachelsvineyard.org and I will forward a postage-paid envelope. Be assured that every day I ask Mother Teresa to carry your intentions to the Throne of God!

Theresa Burke, Ph.D.
Founding Director, Rachel's Vineyard Ministries

'I Have Carved You on The Palm of My Hand. I Will Never Forget You...'

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To this day, I do not remember the actual taking of my child's life. It was so emotionally traumatic that it was as though I left my body. Afterward, I remember thinking that now I had to pretend nothing happened; that I was fine, when in reality something horrific had occurred and I was not fine. I was forever changed.

In order to continue to function and survive this trauma, I did what most women do—enter the phase of denial. A woman literally goes through a time of *forgetting the child within her womb*. It was tissue; it was a blood clot; it was not yet a child.

This denial may last for ten, twenty and even many more years. Denial often manifests itself in many seemingly unrelated ways, such as panic attacks, nightmares, difficulty in relationships, suicidal tendencies, drug and alcohol use and abuse—and also reenactment in the form of repeat abortions. These are all symptoms of Post Abortion Syndrome.

The walls of my denial started to crumble and fall after my mother died in 1994. I started to cry and just couldn't stop. This deep grief was welling out of me, and I was having a hard time getting a grip on myself. I started to have panic attacks that



'Would a mother forget her baby? ...I will never forget My own.'
—(Isaiah 49)

were so bad that I had to be medicated, and nightmares were becoming a common occurrence.

All the denial in the world couldn't change the underlying truth of how God created women. Children are literally and scientifically *carved* into the very fiber and being of a woman. There has been scientific research indicating that, at the moment of conception, mother and child begin to communicate on a hormonal level and this information is permanently recorded in the mother's brain.

And so I came to the point where I could no longer "forget" my child. I was acknowledging my longing and love for this child, whom I was never

able to hold to my breast, keep safe in my arms, and keep close to my heart. I wanted to dignify the reality of this precious one.

I finally found relief for this deepest pain and loss of mine through a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat. The mother-child bond was reconnected and I was able to dignify my forgotten child through a memorial service and Mass. I am now able to keep close to this child in prayer because I know that she or he is a part of the communion of saints now living in the Lord.

So now when I hear the song, and the question: "Would a mother forget her baby? Or a woman the child within her womb?" I can answer "No!" She might be able to "forget" many years, but the truth and reality of the child is *carved* and recorded permanently into her every fiber and being. *She will never forget her own.*

Susan N Gliko is a married stay-at-home mother of four living children. She is also the state coordinator for Rachel's Vineyard Retreats in Montana. If you or someone you know is hurting from a past abortion, there is hope for healing. For more information check out www.rachelsvineyard.org, or call the national hotline 877-HOPE-4ME.

Upcoming Events And Clinical Training Opportunities

- # **July 9:** Catholic Medical Association at the Philadelphia Union League "Spirituality and Medicine: Approach to the Suffering Patient". Contact William.V.Williams 610 917 5924. Email: William.V.Williams@verizon.net.
- # **July 22-25:** Retreat for Sexual Abuse. Thief River Falls, MN.
- # **August 15-21:** World Youth Day 2005, Cologne, Germany.
- # **September 26:** AACC World Conference October 1, 2005 Pre-Conference Presenter "Take Me to the Cross" - Nashville, TN.
- # **October 1:** Pennsylvania Pro Life Federation Conference. Contact: Lisa Neuhauser (717) 541-0034.
- # **November 14-18:** International Leadership Training Conference for Rachel's Vineyard Oakland, CA.
- # **April 3, 2006:** Conference Diocese of Fargo Post-Abortion Care for Professionals: CEU credits available. Contact: Rachele Sauvageau, Director Respect Life Office (701)356-7910. Rachele.sauvageau@fargodiocese.org

Upcoming Rachel's Vineyard Retreat Schedule

June 3-5
+ Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
Note: Nondenominational
Contact: Chris Mackay (204) 772-1923

+ Mendham, NJ
Note: Interdenominational
Contact: Linda Trignano (973) 722-9961

+ Ketchikan, AK
Contact: Diane Szurleys (907) 225-2502

June 6-8
+ Perth, Western Australia
Contact: Clare Pike 08 9375 2029

June 10-12
+ Corpus Christi, TX
Contact: Desda (361) 949-1251

+ Amarillo, TX
Contact: Gwen Johns (806) 678-4673
Note: Interdenominational

June 17-19
+ Rapid City, SD
Contact: Carol King (605) 374-5639

+ Portland, ME
Contact: Jeanne Bull (207) 879-1130
or toll-free 800 CARE 002

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