

Spreading the Work of Healing

First Rachel's Vineyard Retreat and Training in Austria

Theresa Burke, foundress of Rachel's Vineyard Retreats, came to the International Theological Institute (ITI) to run the first Rachel's Vineyard Retreat in Austria. After visiting and explaining this work of helping

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to heal the wounds left by abortion, a number of students contacted Theresa offering to translate the Rachel's Vineyard Retreat Manual into their native languages. Most of these

students came from Central and Eastern European Countries, where Rachel's Vineyard had difficulties spreading because of language barriers. All of the students at the ITI speak English, so it was the perfect opportunity to conduct a training for Rachel's Vineyard so that these students could take the retreat home with them when they returned to their respective countries. It was the perfect answer to a prayer!

Thirty people attended the Rachel's Vineyard Retreat training. Even though it was a training, everyone followed it as a retreat to better understand the process. Many students were grieving siblings who were aborted. A number of students had moth-



Dr. Theresa Burke trains ITI students and guests in the work of abortion trauma healing.



according to the state. He could not attend school or be seen until they moved to a new town and he finally entered school at the age of nine. The devastating perfectionism of the “wanted child” was also a source of grief work for a number of students who had learned you need to be perfect to stay alive, as they witness many children killed the minute they are born if they have any defects. Indeed, the need for healing the ripple effects of an abortion culture were starkly evident.

Despite the languages and numerous cultures represented, the group bonded together as the suffering body of Christ and moved through the grief into an experience of healing and resurrection – ready to spread the same good news to other lands. ✕

ers who had aborted every pregnancy except them, and they recognized the survivor syndrome inside themselves. One student from China was hidden after birth because of China's one child policy – for eight years he “did not exist”