A Special Thanks

It’s an exciting time for Rachel’s Vineyard as we continue to grow. Our organization is transforming the harsh realities of GLOBAL MOURNING as we provide a voice of hope, love and truth to those who have suffered the loss of their children to abortion. The movement of post abortion awareness and healing is at a real point of illumination as more and more research exposes the damage; as more and more testimonies reveal the truth, and as the expansive growth of healing retreats throughout the world are skyrocketing souls into freedom. We’ll continue to bring inspired people together in leadership and training forums.

This ministry would not be possible without our world wide network of close to 25,000 volunteers and numerous organizations that support the Rachel’s Vineyard retreats.

In 2011, Rachel’s Vineyard has grown to 41 countries and is available in 19 languages with many new translations in progress.

To be sure, Rachel’s Vineyard is an Ecumenical movement of the Holy Spirit.

As we share this Year End Review it provides an opportunity to offer a special thanks to Fr. Frank Pavone, the Pastoral Director of Rachel’s Vineyard, and the entire staff at 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. The support and guidance we receive and our fellowship in Christ provides the solid foundation from which we go forth in our vocation to spread the healing message of Rachel’s Vineyard to the entire world.
Rachel’s Vineyard Sites Approved in 2011

Stevens Point, WI
Site Leader: Lisa Sommers

Phoenix, AZ Spanish
Site Leader: Rosie Villegas-Smith

Chandler, AZ
Site Leader: Linda Diamond

Bogota, Columbia
Site Leader: Yahayra Montenegro

Douglas, WY
Site Leader: Kay Walker

Georgetown, DE
Site Leader: Teresa Bolden

Vienna, Austria
Site Leader: Claudia Brandhuber

Columbus, GA (Interdenom)
Site Leader: Sr. Pat Thompson

Denver, CO (Spanish)
Site Leader: Rosalinda Lozano

Bahía Blanca, Argentina
Site Leader: Lala Rey Mendez

**New Site Leaders**
Suzanne DeFriesse - Springfield, IL
Kris Gaspari-Cedar Falls, IA
Kathleen Wimple-Albany, NY
Valerie Uriegas-Corpus Christi, TX
Margarita Moran-Camden, NJ

196 Retreat Sites
169 offer Catholic Retreats  38 offer Interdenominational Retreats  27 offer Spanish Retreats

**note: some retreats offer multiple retreat types**
Rachel’s Vineyard Sites in Development

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Site Details</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>Site Leader: Tamara Nijinsky</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wynn, Arkansas</td>
<td>Site Leader: Millie Dail Lace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pensacola, Florida</td>
<td>Site Leaders: Dr. Ernie and Mary Beth Cyr</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hattiesburg, Mississippi</td>
<td>Site Leader: Gina Fiorintini</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baja, Mexico</td>
<td>Site Leader: Olivia Diaz Gomez</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>Site Leader: Hanna Potrapeluk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faroe Islands</td>
<td>Site Sponsor: Franciscan Missionaries of Mary</td>
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<td>Lithuania</td>
<td>Site Leader: Jolanta Mastauskaite</td>
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<td>Glasgow, Scotland</td>
<td>Site Sponsor: Sister’s of the Gospel of Life</td>
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<td>Guam</td>
<td>Site Leader: Denise Reyes</td>
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<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>Site Leader: Irene van der Wende</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lima, Peru</td>
<td>Site Leader: Fr. Richard</td>
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<tr>
<td>Los Angeles, CA (Interdenom)</td>
<td>Site Leader: Tegra Little</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wiesbaden, Germany</td>
<td>Site Leader: Julie Enriquez</td>
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<tr>
<td>Burlington, Vermont</td>
<td>Site Leader: Julia Roberts</td>
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<td>Panama City, Panama</td>
<td>Site Leader: Fr. Teofilo Rodriguez</td>
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## List of National Rachel’s Vineyard Sites

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National Sites</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Juneau, AK</td>
<td>Shreveport, LA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Birmingham, AL</td>
<td>Springfield, MA</td>
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<td>Mobile, AL</td>
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<td>Chandler (Interden), AZ</td>
<td>Baltimore (Interden), MD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mesa, AZ</td>
<td>DC Metro Area, MD</td>
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<td>Phoenix (Español), AZ</td>
<td>Ocean City, MD</td>
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<td>Phoenix, AZ</td>
<td>Temple Hills, MD</td>
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<td>Prescott Valley, AZ</td>
<td>Portland, ME</td>
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<td>Tucson, AZ</td>
<td>Ann Arbor, MI</td>
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<td>Los Angeles, CA</td>
<td>Saginaw, MI</td>
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<td>Minneapolis, MN</td>
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<td>Tupelo/Columbia, MS</td>
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<td>San Jose (Interden)CA</td>
<td>Great Falls, MT</td>
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<td>Santa Rosa, CA</td>
<td>Missoula, MT</td>
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<td>Temecula, CA</td>
<td>Asheville, NC</td>
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<td>Charlotte, NC</td>
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<td>Denver, CO</td>
<td>Wilmington, NC</td>
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<td>Denver, CO (Español)</td>
<td>Winston-Salem, NC</td>
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<td>Hankinson, ND</td>
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<td>Hadem, CT</td>
<td>Richardson, ND</td>
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<td>Omaha/Lincoln, NE</td>
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<td>Camden, NJ</td>
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<td>Jacksonville/St. Augustine, FL</td>
<td>Linden, NJ</td>
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<td>Northern NY, NY</td>
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<td>Boise, ID</td>
<td>Greater Cincinnati, OH/N. Kentucky</td>
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<td>Joliet / Romeoville, IL</td>
<td>Steubenville, OH</td>
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<td>Peoria, IL</td>
<td>Oklahoma City, OK</td>
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<td>Rockford, IL</td>
<td>Tulsa, OK</td>
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<td>Bend, OR</td>
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<td>Medford, OR</td>
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<td>Portland, OR</td>
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<td>South Bend, IN</td>
<td>Allentown, PA</td>
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<td>Hays, KS</td>
<td>Clarks Summit/Scranton, PA</td>
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<td>Kansas City (Interden)</td>
<td>Doylestown, PA</td>
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<td>Wichita, KS</td>
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<td>Lafayette, LA</td>
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<table>
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<th>National Sites</th>
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<tr>
<td>Charleston, SC</td>
<td>Rock Hill, SC</td>
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<td>Rapid City, SD</td>
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<td>Memphis, TN</td>
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<td>Corpus Christi, TX</td>
<td>Dallas, TX</td>
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<td>Dallas, TX</td>
<td>Dallas (Español), TX</td>
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<td>Fort Hood / Killeen, TX</td>
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<td>Fort Worth, TX</td>
<td>Granbury, TX</td>
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<td>Houston, TX</td>
<td>Houston (Interden) TX</td>
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<td>Katy (Interden), TX</td>
<td>Lubbock, TX</td>
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<td>Rio Grande City, TX</td>
<td>Arlington, VA</td>
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<td>Fredericksburg (Interden), VA</td>
<td>Richmond, VA</td>
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<td>Williamsburg, VA</td>
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<td>Stevens Point, WI</td>
<td>Wheeling, WV</td>
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<td>Douglas, WI</td>
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International Rachel’s Vineyard Sites

International Sites
Bahia Blanca, Argentina
Adelaide, SA Australia
Brisbane, QLD Australia
Canberra, NSW Australia
Hobart, TAS Australia
Melbourne (Interden), VIC Australia
Perth, WAA Australia
Sydney, NSW Australia
Vienna, Austria
Tiko, Cameroon Africa
Cache Creek, BC Canada
Calgary, AB Canada
Edmonton Rural Area, AB Canada
Kelowna, BC Canada
N.Battleford, SK Canada
Yellowknife NT, Canada
Ottawa, ON Canada
Pointe-aux-Outardes, QC Canada
Vancouver, BC Canada
Winnipeg, MB Canada
China
Bogota, Columbia
Quito, Ecuador
East Midland, England
Leeds, England
Paris, France
Hildesheim, Germany
Cork City, Ireland
Tarano, Piemonte Italy
Kingston, Jamaica
Beirut, Lebanon
Mellieha, Malta
Mexico City, Mexico
Rotorua, New Zealand
Wellington, New Zealand
Belfast, N. Ireland
Lisbon, Portugal
San Juan, Puerto Rico
Magadan, KM Russia
Vladivostok, Russia
Singapore
Madrid, CM Spain
Taipei, TC Taiwan
Montevideo, Uruguay
Vietnam
Eugenia Hadley has been instrumental in the Latin American community to get Rachel’s Vineyard up and running in many Spanish speaking countries and has single handedly helped start all of the Rachel’s Vineyard sites in South America. Eugenia has been instrumental for our Hispanic outreach and has been working in that regard for seven years. She will continue to travel and train and has received many invitations this year.

In January, Eugenia trained the new team in Phoenix Arizona. In May, she traveled to Bogota, Colombia and trained the first Rachel’s Vineyard team in the country. In June she presented an Overview of Rachel’s Vineyard and The Traumatic Reenactment of Abortion (in Spanish) together with Fr. Victor Salomon at the Congreso Binacional Hispano de Evangelizacion y Respeto a la Vida in Phoenix, Arizona. Eugenia has already received an invitation to present in 2013 in Dallas, Texas.

Eugenia presented at our Rachel’s Vineyard International Leadership Conference in July. Her workshop, “La Mujer Latina,” was well attended.

In October, Eugenia traveled to Santiago, Chile to attend the III Encuentro Latinoamericano de acompañamiento Pastoral Post Aborto Y Congreso en Chile (International Congress on Post-Abortion Support.), where she presented the Overview of Rachel’s Vineyard. There were many people from all over South America and Central America who attended the presentation. At the Congress, the presenters were each given only 30 minutes to present their programs. When Eugenia finished her presentation of Viñedo de Raquel everybody was so excited about it that they asked if Eugenia could be given more time to present the whole overview of Rachel’s Vineyard. The following day, Eugenia was given an hour and 15 minutes to present. Everyone had many questions and most of the people want to incorporate Rachel’s Vineyard retreats into their programs.

Eugenia received a lot of invitations to come to the participants’ countries and help them start RV stemming from this opportunity to speak at the Congress. So far, invitations came from groups in Colombia, Peru, Uruguay, Chile, and Bolivia. These groups are currently working on getting the means to start their teams and they are looking into having Eugenia travel to help train them.

While in Chile, Eugenia was treated very warmly. Bishop Monseñor Juan Ignacio Gonzales from the Diocese of San Bernardo particularly expressed interest in post-abortion work. He has been very supportive of Proyecto Esperanza. The bishop sat next to Eugenia at a generous lunch hosted by a pro-life lawyer, Jorge Reyes Zapata and his wife at their beautiful home in their garden. On the last day in Chile, Eugenia was able to visit the Concho Y Toro Vineyard - she can’t think of a better way to finish a trip teaching about Rachel’s Vineyard, than visiting a beautiful Vineyard!
Dr. Karen Stevenson and Minister Pamela Bell both spoke at our Rachel’s Vineyard Leadership conference on the topic of African American outreach. Dr. Stevenson serves on the Rachel’s Vineyard retreat team in Atlanta, Georgia and Minister Pamela Bell runs Interdenominational Rachel’s Vineyard retreats in Baltimore, MD.

Dr. Karen Stevenson recorded a video for the Rachel’s Vineyard youtube on slavery and abortion. The video is now one of our channel’s most viewed clips.

Rachel’s Vineyard works very closely with Dr. Alveda King who continues to promote the healing work of Rachel’s Vineyard through her ministry with Priests for Life / Gospel of Life and King for America and also through her many public speaking events and meetings with political leaders and well known pastors.

A Rachel’s Vineyard retreat site is currently in development in Los Angeles, CA which will be a specific outreach to the African American community in that area. We anticipate a surge in interest from many African American pastors who are networking and actively working to establish this retreat site. The site will be led by Tegra Little.
In July, Dr. Theresa Burke, founder of Rachel’s Vineyard, spoke to 25,000 people at the “NightVision Music Festival” in Denver, CO. The event was hosted by Praise Him Ministries which is founded by Victoria Hearst, who is the sister of Patty Hearst. The event featured dozens of popular Christian music artists including Mercy Me, Surprise Guest T-Bone; Travis Green, Sanctus Real, Superchick, Casting Crowns and many more.

After networking heavily with many Interdenominational leaders in the vineyard at our International Leadership Conference in July, we have formed an Interdenominational leadership e-group. The e-group is a closed group for members of the Rachel’s Vineyard Interdenominational community and a forum where they can share ideas and discuss strategies for how to grow the vineyard and how to address certain issues as they arise on retreat weekends.

Many Catholic and Interdenominational leaders are currently working together in the vineyard. Many retreat sites now offering both Catholic and Interdenominational retreats. We currently have 38 retreat sites which offer Interdenominational retreats.
Spanish Website

We have seen a tremendous growth in our Hispanic Outreach and we recognize the need for more Spanish resources. Our Spanish website for El Viñedo de Raquel is now available online. This website includes all of the features of our English website in addition to links to Spanish articles and resources.

Sites Webpages

Our updated English website was unveiled to showcase a personalized page for each of our retreat sites. The page features an invitation from the team, pictures of team members and retreat center, a history of their team, biographies from the facilitator, counselor and priest and any other information the team would like to share. We hope this information will encourage those thinking about going on a retreat to contact one of our site leaders.
The Rachel’s Vineyard Hawaii team is doing very well. They are currently going through a transition period. Fr. Paul Zaccone, SS.CC. is being reassigned to another position on the East Coast and the team is looking for another priest to join their RV team and family. Fr. Paul has been a tremendous asset to the team, providing wonderful support with compassion and humor when ministering to the participants. The team has grown closer together in the past year, and RV Hawaii is really going to miss him! Lisa Shorba, site leader for Hawaii, will be meeting with Bishop Larry Silva for his support in either appointing a priest to the RV site or discussing other possibilities.

Since the Hawaiian site started in September, 2009, with Theresa Burke leading the first retreat, they have already completed 5 weekend retreats and served 37 participants. The Lord is doing great things for the Hawaii team, and Lisa shares “I love being a part of this beautiful, healing work. I have met so many wonderful people, and now have many new friends.” Their next retreat is scheduled for April 27-29, 2012.

Our new sites continue to grow in the states with new contacts from states such as Vermont, Georgia, Louisiana, and Kansas. Many of our national retreat sites who offered only English speaking retreats are now beginning to offer both English and Spanish. Our Interdenominational retreat sites are also really starting to grow with many retreat sites offering both Catholic and Interdenominational retreats.
Another wonderful development which really took shape at our International Leadership Conference was the formation of a Rachel’s Vineyard Medical Advisory Board.

Rachel’s Vineyard utilizes the services of psychiatrists, psychologists, therapists and other professionals in the mental health field throughout the world. They assist both on the retreats and in the development and analysis of the effectiveness of this treatment model.

The establishment of a special advisory board now formalizes what has been happening all along, but brings the added advantage of being able to present to the medical and therapeutic community a more structured method of communicating about the issues of trauma and healing after abortion.

Dr. Martha Shuping, member of the Medical Advisory Board, also presented in Santiago, Chile, at the third annual Congreso Internacional de Acompañamiento Post-aborto (International Congress on Post-abortion Support) along with Eugenia Hadley. She has been a co-author on published research concerning women’s mental health and abortion, and has spoken at workshops at the United Nations on this subject. Dr. Shuping is author of several abortion recovery resources including The Four Steps to Healing. Please visit http://www.rachelnetwork.org/ for some of Dr. Shuping’s articles and research.
International Sites

It has been a busy 2011 for Rachels Weinberg (Rachel’s Vineyard) in Germany and Austria!

While Germany held two more retreats, the need for RV-staff training became more and more prevalent. Anne Arthur translated a large amount of training material into German; and, thanks to technology, she was able to converse via email with Christiane Kurpik, the German site leader in Hildesheim. Christiane, in turn, trained her team, which is continuously growing. Thanks be to God! God is leading more and more professionals to their retreat site.

Anne’s team trained psychologists and therapists from South and North Germany, who in turn are looking into the possibility to open new sites in the near future.

Theresa held clinical trainings for a group of people in Vienna, Austria. Subsequently, the Vienna group formed their work-team and finally held their own “solo” retreat. Again, via email Anne was able to answer the day-to-day questions of Austria’s site leader, Claudia Brandhuber, to help them on their way. As the Vienna team is getting more organized, we look forward to having more retreats in 2012.

Anne also reported that they obtained grants from two different Catholic Foundations for the German site, which eased their financial burden. They were thus also able to accommodate financially challenged participants at very reduced costs.

The bishop’s office in Hildesheim has once more expressed their support to the Hildesheim Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat site. Although they cannot provide financial help, it is good to know that they acknowledge the great work of Rachel’s Vineyard in their diocese.

Anne commented that “it is a joy to see how the Holy Spirit is working in Germany and Austria, and I enjoy mentoring and helping them along the way (although I am all the way on the other side of the world, in Haiti).”

One of the largest accomplishments in 2011 was that Anne completed translating the new RV-manual from English into German. As it turned out, it’s not just a matter of “adapting the old” but rather re-writing the complete manual and appendix. A much larger task than anticipated! However, Anne would like to commend Theresa and Katie for this new edition of the manual, which has a nice new flow and is very user-friendly. She shares it was worth their effort, and she is trying her best to faithfully put it into German. With the Lord’s help (and that of the proof-readers) it is progressing nicely, although many attacks by our adversary kept throwing her back now and again. All going well, she anticipates the last corrections to be completed in early 2012, so that the teams in Germany and Austria will be able to use the new manual for their next retreats.
Bernadette Goulding of Ireland facilitated a retreat in Lebanon in April 2011 and the retreat site is now in operation. She has just received an invitation to facilitate a retreat in the Faroe Islands this year. The date has not yet been decided. Bernadette was in the Faroes in 2010 and spoke at several venues giving her testimony and promoting Rachel’s Vineyard.

Bernadette has also been mentoring a retreat site in Korea. There are around four thousand abortions per day in South Korea. Both North and South Korea are steeped in Confucian traditions in which boys carry on the family line and care for elderly parents. There is a government order that states that families can have just two children. This order is now changing and the government is encouraging women to have more children. Bernadette shared that she met several women who had lost count after 9 or 10 abortions. She has met with two doctors who have become pro-life.

Fr. Laurence Kettle recently wrote an update about the Korean retreat site. After many years of patience and prayer, the first Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat took place at a Sacred Heart Retreat Centre in Korea on the last weekend of October 2011. Seven women participated and each of them testified afterwards to a powerful encounter with our loving God through His Living Word, His mercy, His healing touch and His peace. By the end of the weekend, these sisters were transformed into a sisterhood of faith and hope, and they left the centre with new hearts, a spring in their step, and with the courage and confidence of someone who has been truly set free!

Fr. Kettle commented: “The weekend was doubly blessed by the presence of Bernadette Goulding, the Director of Rachel’s Vineyard, Ireland, who traveled all the way from Ireland to facilitate this first historic retreat. Bernadette’s insights into the suffering of post-abortive women, her enthusiasm, joy, and compassion and her wise counsel left a deep impression on everyone.”

Bernadette also addressed a small gathering of students in the Jesuit Sogang University in Seoul on the following Tuesday and her testimony was featured in a fine article in a prominent Catholic newspaper a few days later. It was the first time in Korea that a woman ever spoke publicly about her abortion experience.
A Korean priest, Fr Stephen, also participated in the retreat. He is the appointed chaplain for pro-life ministries in his diocese and he too was very touched by the whole experience as he listened to the painful stories of the participants. He also showed great humility and solidarity with them by sharing about his own wounds, much to the edification and appreciation of all. Such participation strengthened the bond of trust and empathy within the group. As a result of his experience, Fr. Stephen became convinced of the efficacy and integrity of the Rachel’s Vineyard retreat ministry to heal many women and men hurting after abortion and expressed, with a note of urgency, his hope to see it grow quickly. Fr Stephen’s urgent appeal is justified when we consider that South Korea, which has a population of about 50 million people, has one of the highest rates of abortions in the world, approximately 1.5 million annually.

Thank you to Basa Choi, who did the work on the translation of the manual over a couple of years and interpreted for Bernadette during the first retreat.

Russia is becoming a very active country for Rachel’s Vineyard retreats where another retreat site has been formed in Kursk led by Pamela Norris. New retreat sites have also been formed in China and Vietnam. As many know, this type of healing retreat is sorely needed in countries like these due to the strict child policies and some cultural practices and beliefs.
Last March I had the great privilege of personally meeting the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI during a private audience with the Pontifical Academy for Life. I was one of twenty people who received a “golden ticket” to go up to speak with the Holy Father and receive a personal blessing. I had the opportunity to tell him about the work of Rachel’s Vineyard. But most importantly, I asked him to pray for all those who attend Rachel’s Vineyard and the 8 thousand plus volunteers who labor in the Vineyard offering their gifts to the church as we help to rebuild the broken and suffering body of Christ. I asked for a special blessing on everyone connected to our ministries.

The Pope looked directly into my eyes. He held my hand and spoke with such a gentle and loving voice. I felt the presence of Jesus Christ and remembered the description of Peter in Acts 5: 15-16 -

Thus they even carried the sick out into the streets and laid them on cots and mats so that when Peter came by, at least his shadow might fall on one or another of them.

A large number of people from the towns in the vicinity of Jerusalem also gathered, bringing the sick and those disturbed by unclean spirits, and they were all cured.

Mindful of all your intentions, I placed myself in the Pope’s shadow, the successor of Peter, as he walked right in front of me exiting the papal chambers inside the Vatican. Catching my eye, I felt he was staring right at me as he walked by. Again I thought of the scriptures:

And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven.
Amazing mysteries that somehow render me quite speechless! But it’s a good thing my speech was earlier that week! During this moment, I would have had a hard time putting any thoughts into words!

The previous day, Friday, February 25, I was invited to give an address the Pontifical Academy for Life on Post Abortion Trauma. My particular assignment was to give a world Literature Review entitled The Aftermath of Abortion -- The Data from Scientific Literature. The two other presenters included Sister Marie-Luc, from the Clinique Saint Vincent de Paul, from Bourgoin-Jallieu, France who addressed the Theories and Realities of Post Abortion Trauma and Dr. Angelo, a psychiatrist from Boston who spoke about the Prevention and Treatment of Post Abortion Trauma.

Following the lecture, I was invited to do an interview with Vatican Television and a number of Italian Newspapers.

In the days leading up to the conference, I had the pleasure to do an interview with Vatican Radio with Father Frank Pavone and Janet Morana. Click here to listen to the Interview.
I was also able to meet with Monika Rodman, who many of you know from her work with Rachel’s Vineyard which dates back to 1994, when she first ran the Rachel’s Vineyard 15 week support groups and Retreats, while she served as the Respect Life Director for the Diocese of Oakland, California. While on a trip to Italy she met and fell in love with Domenico Montanaro and her marriage swept her away to Southern Italy where they currently live. Monika devoted extraordinary efforts to translate the Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat Manual into Italian and got the ministry going in Italy. They just completed their third retreat which attracted men and women from throughout Italy. This past week, I had the great joy to share a hotel room with her while I was doing my work for the Academy while Monika spent the days networking with clergy and searching for a new retreat house so they can conduct their next retreat in Rome! We had a fabulous reunion and were able to discuss many issues related to starting the retreats in countries where abortion is still not spoken of. Monika also helped to mentor the new retreat site in Germany, which is now flourishing.

An article about the work of Rachel’s Vineyard in Italy just ran in the February Edition of “Noi Genitori e Figli” the monthly family life magazine inserted into the Italian Catholic Bishops daily newspaper, “Avvenire.”

Clarissa and Joe Cincotta were also in Rome the same week with Father Peter Cipriani, together, they form the leadership of the Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat team in the Diocese of Bridgeport, Connecticut. We had a wonderful visit just outside the Pantheon. It was such a pleasure to see familiar beloved faces from our ministry while in Rome, especially because they provided reassurance and prayers before the Academy assembly. I have to admit, I was nervous!

We spent our last night in Rome with Father Frank Pavone, Janet Morana having a dinner with Fr. Victor Ghio and Monsignor Carlos Simon Vazquez, both from the Pontifical Council for the Family. Monika Rodman joined us along with the indomitable and energetic Joan Lewis. Joan has served as the Bureau Chief Correspondent for the last 30 years for EWTN in Rome. She delighted us with stories and unique insights into life in the Eternal City.

All in all, the trip was a remarkable experience. I never dreamed I would ever get the opportunity to meet the Pope, let alone speak to him! I am grateful to Priests for Life for all their tremendous support in helping to promote the work of Rachel’s Vineyard – and I am thankful to all of you, who make this ministry happen throughout the world. It’s hard to believe that this year Rachel’s Vineyard will have grown to 35 countries and is offered in ten languages! It’s an incredible movement of God’s spirit because he wants to heal the culture of death. He restores and raises up those willing to serve him and accompanies his presence with undeniable signs and wonders. Those of us who have the privilege of working in Rachel’s Vineyard have witnessed the tremendous anointing of God upon this work.
As I whispered “Arrivederci Roma” gazing out the window of the plane as we moved up into the clouds above this ancient city. I wondered if I will ever return. I remembered spending our 25th wedding anniversary in this extraordinary capital of romance with Kevin back in August, as we joined the study group of experts invited by the Academy to prepare for this meeting. Then I reflected upon the words of St. Augustine: “To fall in love with God is the greatest of all romances; To seek him is the greatest adventure; and to find him is the greatest human achievement!” To the Lord I say, “grazie di tutto!”
I departed for Europe on Mother’s Day – a fitting day to begin planting a number of new vineyard sites for Eastern Europe and beyond. Mother’s Day because so many mothers in these countries will meet and reconcile with their lost aborted children – and the joy that awaits them is truly a gift from heaven – like the extraordinary treasure of the love between a mother and child.

FRANCE

I was greeted in Paris by Jean Marc and Sabine Poujade, who serve as the coordinators of Mere de Misericorde, one of the largest communities for faith development in France. They operate in 12 locations throughout France as offices for evangelization which are attached to a number of different Dioceses. Mere de Misericorde is now officially a new sponsor for Rachel’s Vineyard in France. During our days together, I met with a number of people interested in helping to spread the word about the retreats in France.

I was invited by Bishop Nicholas Brouwet to stop by to visit him in Nantes, just outside of Paris. He attended the first Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat in France, so it was a fabulous opportunity to meet with him and discuss how we can partner for the necessary work of healing throughout the church in his country. Our meeting lasted two hours!

I also made a visit to the Jerome Lejeune Foundation and met with the staff, including Mrs. Lejeune, the wife of the famous French Geneticist who discovered the chromosomal abnormality which causes Downs Syndrome and other trisomy disorders. They also conducted an interview for their magazine on the work of Rachel’s Vineyard.

I was invited to a press conference to discuss post abortion trauma and healing. An in-depth interview was conducted by several journalists including Stephanie Combe from Familie Chretienne in France, who is writing a feature story on Rachel’s Vineyard. This is a prestigious Journal concerning the family. Another reporter was Clare Le Guen who works for the Conference of Bishops in France. There was a great interest in the topic and these will be important contacts to help get the word out about the retreats in France.

I also spent time with long time friend Anne Helene O’Malley who helped translate the Rachel’s Vineyard Manual into French and organized the first two retreats in France at the request of her Bishop. Jean Marc & Diane Richards flew from Quebec to assist on that first retreat.

I also visited with Joel Rosenfeld who hopes to offer the retreat at a new site near Compiegne at the Arche Community, the renowned community of love and friendship for those with disabilities established by Jean Vanier. Other meetings were held with Marie Sentis who is the founder of a French National Hotline to provide help for women in crisis pregnancy, who are now eager to refer those in need of post abortion healing to Rachel’s Vineyard.
BELGIUM

A number of people traveled down from Belgium to learn more about the practical steps to begin implementing the program in their country. Laetitia Pouliquen is doing a wonderful job trying to bring information about post abortion suffering to Brussels and beyond. After attending the first Rachel’s Vineyard retreat in France, she has been making videos and writing articles and has an interest in developing Silent No More. Another leader from Belgium also traveled down to see how her organization “Souffledevie” can become involved in the work of Rachel’s Vineyard.

AUSTRIA

After a whirlwind of meetings, I departed for Vienna – to run the first Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat in Austria at the International Theological Institute. We visited last fall at the invitation of Cardinal Schönborn with Father Frank Pavone, Janet Morana and my husband, Kevin. During that visit, we taught a full day of classes at the Institute. Afterwards, a number of students contacted me offering to translate the Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat Manual into their native languages. Most of these students came from Eastern European Countries, where we have had difficulties spreading Rachel’s Vineyard because of language barriers. All of the students at the ITI speak English. It seemed to be 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!

We began the Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat on May 13, The Feast of Our Lady of Fatima, a fitting day to start the retreat for these Eastern block countries. The wound within these families is so deeply connected to our Lady’s message to Lucia: “If my requests are not heard, Russia will spread her errors throughout the world, causing wars, and persecutions of the church. The good will be martyred; The Holy Father will have much to suffer; various nations will be annihilated.” Russia was the first country worldwide to legalize abortion in 1920. The number of abortions in Russia is now about 1.5 million annually, just under the number of births there, which number 1.6 million per year.

Thirty people attended the Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat in Vienna. Our retreat memorialized close to 70 babies. Many students were grieving siblings who were aborted. A number of students had mothers who had aborted every pregnancy except them, and they recognized the survivor syndrome inside themselves. One priest called upon his 6 aborted brothers and sisters to spiritually join with him as partners in his ministry and to pray together for their mother. One immigrant from China was hidden after birth because of China’s one child policy – for 8 years he “did not exist” 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 9. The devastating perfectionism of the “wanted child” was also a source of griefwork for a number of students who 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.
LITHUANIA

A group in Lithuania which has been trying to start Rachel’s Vineyard heard about my visit and they traveled to Vienna for our retreat. With the help of Ruta Pociute, a student at the International Theological Institute, the entire retreat was simultaneously translated so that the group could “experience” the retreat before they offer the program in their homeland. They sat in our retreat circle as Ruta translated all the sharing and Living Scriptures.

POLAND

Hannah Potrapeluk also heard about the training. She has been working on the translation of the Rachel’s Vineyard manual into Polish. She came from Poland to join us with a friend and benefitted greatly from the training. She will now implement all the new changes and be ready to start the first Polish RV site.

CHINA

Several people who speak Chinese plan to work together on the translation this summer. Because the world’s population is concentrated in Asia, most abortions occur there (26 million yearly); nine million of these take place in China.

DENMARK, SLOVAKIA and UKRAINE

Other students who plan to get Rachel’s Vineyard started came from Denmark, Slovakia, and the Ukraine. Although abortion rates and ratios (the number of abortions for every 100 births) in Eastern Europe have fallen significantly in recent years, they remain higher than in any other region. In 2003, there were more abortions than births in that region (105 abortions for every 100 births).

Despite the languages and numerous cultures represented, our group bonded together as the suffering body of Christ and moved through the grief into an experience of healing and resurrection.
Dr. Theresa Burke and Hanna Potrapeluk, from Warsaw, Poland. Hanna has been working on the Polish translation of the Rachel's Vineyard Manual.
International Office

In June of 2011, the Rachel’s Vineyard International Headquarters welcomed Kathleen Corrigan as the newest Administrative Assistant. She joins Dr. Theresa Burke, founder; Kevin Burke; Katie D’Anunzio, office manager; and Amanda Conklin, administrative assistant in the office in King of Prussia, PA.

International Events

In February, Theresa Burke was invited to the Pontifical Academy for Life in Rome, Italy. Dr. Burke presented a world literature review of post abortion research.

Translations

We are pleased to note that our retreat manual has been translated into German by Ann Arthur, Polish by Hanna Potrapeluk, and Lithuanian. A Rachel’s Vineyard volunteer has offered to complete a Slovak translation. We have also recently had an offer from Kosovo to translate our manual into Armenian. Rachel’s Vineyard is blessed to have around 25,000 volunteers who labor in the vineyard.

Dr. Burke’s book, Forbidden Grief is now available in Spanish “Duelo Prohibido” and Russian “Запрещенные слезы. О чем не рассказывают женщины после аборта”.

Manual Update/Exchange

The revised Rachel’s Vineyard retreat manual was completed. We had a manual exchange in which retreat sites could return their old manuals to us and, in exchange, receive the new manual for free. This served to both distribute the new manuals, as well as remove the old manuals from circulation.

We are currently working on translating the Spanish Catholic manual to match the English revisions as well as updating our Interdenominational manual.

In the Media

Rachel’s Vineyard was featured by a number of media sources this year. Kevin Burke’s article on Aerosmith’s front man, Steven Tyler was featured on National Review’s website and gained a lot of attention. The article discussed the fact that Mr. Tyler is a post-abortive father by his own admission. The article eventually lead Julia Holcomb, the mother of Mr. Tyler’s aborted child to contact Kevin, and with Kevin’s help, they released an article with a more detailed account of her trauma which was run on lifesitenews.com and lifenews.com. As a result of these articles, Julia was able to attend a Rachel’s Vineyard retreat with her husband and receive healing. She is now a spokesperson for the Silent No More Awareness Campaign.

In a video interview with lifesitenews Julia commented: “Another big turning point for me was when my husband and I made a Rachel’s Vineyard retreat together... That retreat was a very healing experience for the two of us. I thought at that time that I had received all the healing and grace there was that God had to give me but after going on that retreat, I left really renewed.... It was very good of my husband. He has never participated in an abortion but he attended that retreat with me as a support for me and accepted a spiritual fatherhood of my child, Michael. It was so helpful for me to have him there. I believe that I also helped him to forgive me and to forgive those who were involved in coercing me to have my abortion. I would encourage anyone who has had an abortion experience to turn to the Church for healing and look at a retreat experience like Rachel’s Vineyard as another important step to find that healing.”

Theresa Burke had an article published in Spanish in “Vida Y Etica” - “Life and Ethics”, a semi-annual publication of the Institute of Bioethics this past June.

During their travels Kevin and Theresa Burke have been interviewed by a number of local radio and television stations and newspapers.
Training and Education in 2011

International Training
Rachel’s Vineyard hosted a large international training event abroad this year. In May, Theresa Burke traveled to Vienna, Austria to hold a training retreat at the the International Theological Institute. People from all of Europe and the Eastern Bloc countries attended the training including Lithuania, the Philippines, Poland, the Ukraine, and China. These people are now taking Rachel’s Vineyard back to their home countries and starting retreats.

Clinical Training
Rachel’s Vineyard offered three clinical trainings to counselors and therapists, social workers, nurses, CPC workers, clergy and laity to educate them on the affects of abortion and present an overview of Rachel’s Vineyard. Those trainings were held in: Jacksonville, FL; Bismark, ND; and Malvern, PA.

Regional Training
In addition to the clinical training, some groups opt for a day training for their Rachel’s Vineyard team and teams from the surrounding areas. A regional training offers support and guidance for the team(s) by Theresa Burke. She covers facilitation skills, runs through any exercises the teams are struggling with and answers any questions team members may have. Regional trainings were offered in: Bismark, ND; and Malvern, PA.

Other Speaking Events
In January, Theresa spoke at the 115 Forum in Washington, DC about the complexities of healing for those in the abortion industry.

Kevin and Theresa Burke, along with Kelly Smith and Amanda Conklin, represented Rachel’s Vineyard at the March for Life in Washington, DC.
Kevin Burke spoke at Shepherd of the Hills church in Bechtelsville, PA in January.
Theresa Burke presented at the AAPLOG conference in Arlington, VA in January.
Theresa presented to the Pontifical Academy for Life in Rome, Italy in February.
Kevin Burke led a clergy training in Newark, NJ in March.
Kevin Burke spoke to seminarians at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, MD in April.
Theresa Burke gave a presentation via Skype to Medical Students for Life at their conference in April.
Theresa Burke was a speaker at the Lifeline Banquet in Wyomissing, PA in April.
Kevin Burke gave a clergy training at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, PA in April.
Theresa was a speaker at the NightVision Conference in Denver, CO in July.
Eugenia Hadley and Dr. Martha Shuping traveled to Chile and represented Rachel’s Vineyard at the third annual Congreso Internacional de Acompanamiento Post-aborto (International Congress on Post-Abortion Support.)
Kathleen Corrigan and Amanda Conklin represented Rachel’s Vineyard at Central Catholic High School in Allentown, PA for their 40 hours devotion.
Rachel’s Vineyard Leadership Conference

2011 Leadership Conference

Rachel’s Vineyard hosted their international training in Malvern, PA. Many different locations were represented including Austria, New Zealand, Australia, Uganda, Canada, Singapore, and Jamaica. This was the largest conference to date with almost 250 participants.

Speakers

Speakers at the conference included: Bishop David Choby of Nashville, TN, Fr. Frank Pavone, Janet Morana, Dr. Theresa Burke, Kevin Burke, Georgette Forney, Teresa Tomeo, Dr. Cindy Dillard, Dr. Karen Stevenson, Dr. Peter Kleponis, Msgr. Mike Magee, Rev. Scott Miller, Marjorie Long, Denise Douglas, Colleen Miner, Maggie Walsh and Susan & Guido Fetta.

Class Topics

We were very blessed to offer a variety of topics at this year’s conference. This year we included a new track for the Silent No More Awareness Campaign. We were very happy to finally bring together both Rachel’s Vineyard leaders and Silent No More coordinators and received very good feedback on this new track. Silent No More class topics included: public speaking delivery techniques, media training, the 411 of testimonies, how to expand your Silent No More, and equipping team Silent No More. We also included our first class offered in Spanish this year.


Extras

We also offered some “extra” activities in the evening of our conference. A Talent Show, A Concert by Kevin Burke Jr. on Violin and Fr. Denis Wilde of Priests for Life on Piano, Scriptural Rosary, Zumba Dance, a “Marketplace of Ideas” where participants could share resources etc, a viewing and discussion of the TV show “The Catholic View for Women”, and a Reconciliation service.

For the first time, we also offered an optional day trip on the last day of the conference to Lancaster, PA. While in the land of the Amish, participants attended the theatrical production of Joseph at the Sight and Sound theater. After the play, they visited the replica of the Jewish Temple at the Mennonite visitor’s center. Click here to view the schedule and bios from our Conference Book.
Louise Crawford of Rachel’s Vineyard in Australia sings a beautiful song that she wrote at our Talent Show.

Fr. Frank Pavone and Theresa Burke with the Richmond, VA Rachel’s Vineyard team. We remember Joe Geiger (next to Theresa) and his wife Kay Marie (behind him) in our prayers. Joe passed away this past October.

Fr. Frank and Theresa with the British Columbia, Canada Rachel’s Vineyard team.

Kevin, Katie and Steven Burke share some of their family musical stylings at our Talent Show.

Ellen Curro, P.A., presents on the impacts of contraception in our workshop.

Teresa Tomeo, Georgette Forney, Theresa Burke, Fr. Frank Pavone and Janet Morana pose for a picture after a keynote talk.
Rachel’s Vineyard Catholic Retreat Manual
by Theresa Burke, PhD

Our newly revised manual is available for approved Rachel’s Vineyard retreat sites and features an online appendix with downloadable handouts. Some of the changes include a more detailed anger exercise, and more specific instructions/cues, including a list of materials needed for each exercise.
Forbidden Grief: the Unspoken Pain of Abortion is considered a definitive work on the study of traumatic reactions following abortion.
by: Dr. Theresa Burke, founder of Rachel’s Vineyard Ministries.

Redeeming a Father’s Heart shares the powerful stories of 10 courageous men with the common desire to present the truth of their abortion experience.
by: Kevin Burke, co-founder of Rachel’s Vineyard Ministries.

Contraception of Grief exposes the pain that so many women endure when they realize that the contraceptives they used caused the deaths of their children. This book is for women, men, pastors, doctors and all who minister to the family.
by: Dr. Theresa Burke, founder of Rachel’s Vineyard Ministries.

The Rachel’s Vineyard Manual for Weekend Retreats is a manual for Retreat Leaders to guide them through facilitating the psychological and spiritual journey of post abortion healing. It is available in an Interdenominational edition as well as Spanish, Portuguese, and Russian.
by: Dr. Theresa Burke, founder of Rachel’s Vineyard Ministries.
**Other Products Available**

*Sharing the Heart of Christ* by Kevin Burke, MSS

The nature of abortion trauma requires a team treatment approach which includes Clergy, Counselors and Laity working together to offer a response that encompasses the latest trauma theory integrated with the Word and Sacraments of the Church. *Sharing the Heart of Christ* presents abortion as a relational wound exploring the impact upon marriage and family life. It also explores the vital role post abortion healing fulfills in realizing the New Evangelization in the life of the Church. Special chapters address unique issues faced by clergy when ministering to individuals who suffer from other trauma in their histories; couples who abort due to fetal abnormalities and practical preaching tips and sample sermons on post abortion trauma and healing.

*Abortion Loss and Unresolved Grief*

**DVD series and Course Guide**

An Educational Series on the Psychological and Spiritual Impact of Abortion. The set includes a collection of professionally produced DVD's of many of Kevin and Theresa Burke's presentations frequently given in clinical and pastoral trainings along with a number of talks by Fr. Frank Pavone including “The Parish-Home for Healing, Healing for the Abortionist, and Facing the Need for Healing.” A Course Guide has been developed to use with the DVD set that provides an outline of each talk to help facilitate discussion as well as a course syllabus and sample exams. This set was made possible by a grant from Our Sunday Visitor.

**Promotional Materials**

The Rachel’s Vineyard Brochure had been updated to include the image from our website. It contains information about our ministry, symptoms of post-abortion trauma, testimonies and contact information to find a retreat in your area.

The bookmark has also been giving this new look.

Bumper stickers are now available!
*Harvest of Hope*
by Theresa Burke, PhD, Kevin Burke, MSS and Fr. Frank Pavone.

Harvest of Hope is a 30 minute DVD presentation intended for use on Rachel’s Vineyard retreats. It offers: a brief explanation of trauma, traumatic repetition and other post abortion themes that are helpful for retreat participants to understand as they continue on their healing journey through the weekend; a special welcome to men and couples; and a pastoral message of encouragement and hope from Fr Frank Pavone.
Rachel’s Vineyard Facebook Fan Page

Rachel’s Vineyard joined the world of Facebook during the summer of 2009 with the creation of our Fan Page. Since then we have accumulated over 2,700 fans with new people joining everyday! It is a great way for the ministry to promote upcoming retreats, reach people with our newsletter and other resources and promote our training events and conferences. It also gives people a chance to learn more about our ministry and meet others who are already involved or looking to get involved. We post our newsletter and list of upcoming retreats each month, report all trips followed by a post-trip overview, and share links and articles we feel support and reaffirm the mission of Rachel’s Vineyard.

You can view our fan page at: www.facebook.com/rachelsvineyard

Rachel’s Vineyard Facebook Cause

At the very end of 2009, our Facebook Cause was officially created. In the past few years we worked hard to recruit over 1,500 members. Similar to our fan page, we are able to provide people with information about our ministry and easily provide them a way to support us. They can invite friends and family to join and help spread our message as well as give a monetary donation online. So far our cause has raised $4,656!

You can view our cause at: www.causes.com/rachelsvineyard

Website

Our website offers several resources that can be very useful for women and men looking for help after an abortion. We have several ways that an individual can contact us: email, ask the experts, online forums, and phone numbers for our hotline and each of our sites. The Ask the Experts sections is a good method of communication and has been a very useful tool. Individuals can browse questions or ask their own under categories such as: relationships, legal, mental health, men, spiritual, grief and loss, abuse, the Rachel’s Vineyard retreat experience and several others. We also have plenty of information to help people get a better understanding of post-abortion trauma and the mission of Rachel’s Vineyard.

You can view our website at: www.rachelsvineyard.org

Newsletter: Vine and Branches

Our newsletter, Vine and Branches, goes out on the first of each month. It highlights news from our international office or around the vineyard, honors or awards received by our volunteers, articles written about post-abortion trauma and healing or Rachel’s Vineyard, book reviews, and any other information or resources that would be useful for people involved with the post-abortion or pro-life ministry. We send it out via email and also post it to our website for anyone visiting our site to access. Also, old issues are available in an archive on our website.

You can view our newsletter archive at: http://rachelsvineyard.org/resources/vine-branches.htm

Youtube Channel

This year, we began posting weekly videos to the Rachel’s Vineyard Channel on Youtube. We are able to reach the millions of people who cruise Youtube each day with inspirational and educational messages about abortion trauma and healing. These videos are a wonderful way to equip people with a resource they can quickly share with friends and family in need of healing by emailing or posting the link. The videos feature Kevin and Theresa Burke, founders of Rachel’s Vineyard, Fr. Frank Pavone, Pastoral Director for Rachel’s Vineyard and other supporters of our ministry.

You can view our channel at: www.youtube.com/rachelsvineyard