

# *Rachel's Vineyard*

## **2020**

### *A Year in Review*



Rachel's Vineyard

A Ministry of Priests for Life

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# Note from the Founder

Dearest Friends and Laborers in the Vineyard,

This 2020 end of year report marks my 35th year of doing ministry with those who have suffered the loss of a child through abortion. Yes, I guess at this point it's been a life's work! I have heard thousands of stories over the years disclosed to me in therapy sessions, private letters, years on our hotline, in support groups, and Rachel's Vineyard weekend retreats all over the world; as well as during hundreds of training seminars where I meticulously outlined the symptoms of unresolved trauma and grief from pregnancy loss.

These stories were shared with a deep recognition of heartache signaled by tears and after some time of composure I repeatedly heard, *"I've never told anyone."*

It always amazed me that these individuals would reveal something so intensely personal—often for the very first time—to a person willing to hear about their loss. This truly demonstrated to me how desperate they were to be heard, validated, supported, and healed.

Although every person's story is their own, there are some common themes which stand out in what they shared.

The first was pain—I was struck again and again by the depth of betrayal that both women and men have suffered; by how they defined themselves because of what they were enduring, and how devastating and long term the fallout of abortion can be felt while it rises and sets upon the soul over a lifetime.

The second theme was isolation. The word "secret" was uttered again and again along with feelings of abandonment and shame. They might have been surrounded by people in schools, big families or corporate board rooms—it didn't matter—they were isolated and fearful of sharing their secrets with anyone who might judge or reject them, but more than that was the fear of remembering and mourning.

And third, the testimonies spoke of courage. Actually, hearing the incredible suffering that followed, and even the acting in and acting out of grieving behaviors, revealed the layers of despair and destruction. To have survived this searing grief was incredible, an awe-inspiring act of courage and faith when they took the risk to share. I was holding courage and hope in my hands, because the act of reaching out for help, the act of breaking the silence that imprisons so many of those who have survived the trauma of abortion is deeply courageous.

And finally, transcending all these themes was the yearning for peace and reconciliation, with God, themselves, and their babies.

For some reason, I felt a great responsibility to these brave women and men and wanted them to know that they had been heard and that they could have hope. I studied the subject, went back to school for advanced degrees in counseling psychology, and dedicated my life to this work. I felt compelled and called to address this pain. I knew I wanted to bring God, the author of life into healing the pain suffered in the loss of life.

*Isaiah 43:1-2*

*But now thus says the LORD... Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you...*

# Note from the Founder

When people have experienced the deep pain of abortion... for a time it can be like the gate into their soul is secured and sealed. The goal of Rachel's Vineyard is to let the light in, and to mend the broken heart, to reclaim the life and the love which was nearly extinguished; to banish the darkness and invite God to fill the pain with his Holy and Living presence. In sum.... To let the healing begin.

The result was Rachel's Vineyard Ministries.

Through our healing retreats and communities, Rachel's Vineyard has been able to realize our vision of having healing weekends throughout the world, in scores of countries and in dozens of languages.

There has also been a steady increase in thousands of brave new voices offering their personal testimonies through efforts like the Silent No More Awareness Campaign.

I couldn't be prouder of Father Frank Pavone and the staff at Priests for Life who work tirelessly on behalf of life and have never stopped helping us to move Rachel's Vineyard Ministries forward for the past 17 years. I'm especially grateful to our small staff (Katie D'Annunzio, Lairen Vogan, Kate O'Donnell) who keep the wheels running at our international office with a continual stream of requests and updates.

Now we pray that society will have the courage and compassion to grieve this unprecedented loss of life and to address these issues, to risk talking about them in the news and media as well as in public and political formats.

I am honored to stand with all those who work in our ministries, all those who have suffered from abortion and had the courage to heal, the advocates, the teachers, the pregnancy resource centers, the prolife groups and many church ministry groups; the law and policy makers and all those who support our mission to protect and heal the family from the devastating impact of abortion.

As we close the year we are assured of God's presence and protection for our ministry.

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."  
John 8:12

Hope is not only found in the dawning of the new day, but in our trust- even in the darkest night- that the dawn will indeed come. We see this miracle every day in our ministry and it is a privilege and grace to build and spread the light to all the corners of the earth.

So as we close out 2020 and get ready for a new year, we are happy to share not only all the things that have been accomplished despite the pandemic... But moreover, to share our gratitude for all that God has done with us and through all of us as our Rachel's Vineyard family continues to spread and grow throughout the world. We celebrate how God raises new leaders as retreats continue to flourish and grow through decades of faithful ministry work, education, and all the healing that continues to unfold!



Blessings and Peace,

*Theresa M Burke Ph.D.*

*Dr. Theresa Burke*

Founder, Rachel's Vineyard Ministries

# Note from the Pastoral Director

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Since 2003, when Dr. Theresa and Kevin Burke asked to become Pastoral Associates of Priests for Life and to make Rachel's Vineyard one of our Family of Ministries, I have been privileged to serve as the Pastoral Director, and Board Chairman, of this international healing ministry.

What a blessing! What marvelous growth we have witnessed! What fruitful partnerships we have developed with Church leaders of every denomination! And what great RV staff, teams, mental health professionals, clergy and volunteers we have!

Our entire staff at Priests for Life are blessed to be so deeply involved in helping Rachel's Vineyard in every way, including strategy and planning, fundraising, finance and legal matters, website development, personnel, social media and broadcasting, publishing, traveling and speaking, Church relations, pastoral guidance, and more.

As a national leader in the pro-life movement, moreover, I see how the whole theme of healing the wounds of abortion informs and shapes pro-life strategy, including in the legal and political arenas. The public is more aware than ever of the harm that abortion brings, and of the fact that we who oppose abortion do not oppose those who have abortions. Rather, we embrace them with love.

The year 2020 has been uniquely challenging, and yet, you will see in this report that it has not stopped the growth of Rachel's Vineyard. We have made the necessary adjustments to the pandemic, and have not slowed down one bit in our urgent effort to reach the wounded.

In fact, the pandemic, and other societal uncertainties we experienced this year, have caused many who are wounded by abortion to be triggered by the feelings of instability, vulnerability and the fragility of life. The comfort that Rachel's Vineyard brings by rooting people in the Word of God, the sacraments, and the treatment model based on the research of Dr. Burke and others, has blessed the lives of countless people who otherwise may not have found the help they needed.

I am filled with gratitude for all of you who are involved with this ministry in any way, and especially for Theresa Burke, whose incredible gifts of creativity, insight, compassion and perseverance are at the foundation of this ministry, and continue to inspire me beyond words.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Frank Pavone".

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

# A Quick History

## **Since our inception, our healing retreats have:**

Served over 332,000 individuals, couples and Families;

Trained more than 157,000 healing professionals;

Educated more than 12,000 clergy;

Organized more than 545 educational seminars for mental health professionals;

Offered more than 16,000 retreats;

Offered more than 3,000 support group models;

Connected millions of visitors to our help resources;

Disseminated 501,750 books and videos;

Empowered 501,000 volunteers who volunteer with our ministries;

Welcomed millions visitors to our websites and social media presence;

Garnered thousands of print, radio and media titles regarding our work

Published 8 books (listed at the end of this report);

Published 52,000 Retreat manuals.



**375+ Retreat Sites**

225+ offer Catholic Retreats    75+ offer Interdenominational Retreats    75+ offer Spanish Retreats

**NOTE: some retreat sites offer multiple retreat types**

**NOTE: Due to the abortion laws in various countries we are not able to list all retreat sites.**  
**We also have unlisted retreat sites that are hosted by prisons.**

# Rachel's Vineyard Sites Approved in 2020

## NEW INTERNATIONAL SITES

- Sherbrooke, Quebec, **Canada**  
*(French Speaking)*
- Moncion, **Dominican Republic**
- Tegucigalpa, **Honduras**
- Managua, **Nicaragua**
- Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, **Mexico**
- Duitama-Boyaca, **Colombia**

## NEW NATIONAL SITES

- Pensacola/Tallahassee, **FL**
- Saginaw, **MI**
- Nashville, **TN**
- Orange County, **CA** *(Español)*
- Atlanta, **GA**  
*(for Military & Veterans)*
- St. Louis, **MO**

RachelsVineyard.org  
 Healing the Pain After Abortion One Weekend at a Time

**Isaiah 40:31**

*But they who wait for the Lord  
 shall renew their strength;  
 they shall mount up with wings  
 like eagles; they shall run and  
 not be weary; they shall walk  
 and not faint.*

Sp Adobe Spark

**375+ Retreat Sites**

225+ offer Catholic Retreats    75+ offer Interdenominational Retreats    75+ offer Spanish Retreats

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# Rachel's Vineyard Sites in Development

**INTERNATIONAL SITES**

- Ontario, Canada
- Vancouver Island, Canada
- Hong Kong
- Korea

**NATIONAL SITES**

- Los Banos, CA (Español)
- Central Coast, CA
- Manhattan Beach, CA

**Thinking of bringing A New Rachel's Vineyard Retreat Site to your area?**

Contact our Rachel's Vineyard International Office  
 at: [newsite@rachelsvineyard.org](mailto:newsite@rachelsvineyard.org)

For those who have participated in any way in an abortion, the first step in exploring whether God is calling you is to experience the Rachel's Vineyard Retreat. Your own healing must be the first step in this discernment process. Our recommendation is not to pursue any leadership role until at least 6months to a year after your initial weekend. Stay involved with the site where you attended your weekend, if possible. Attend support meetings and offer to help in even small ways. All this will prepare you for the time when you are ready to become a new site leader.

# National Rachel's Vineyard Sites

Cullman, AL  
 Mobile, AL  
 Cottonwood, AZ (Interdenom)  
 Mesa, AZ  
 Phoenix, AZ (Español)  
 Prescott Valley, AZ  
 Tucson, AZ\*  
 Yuma, AZ  
 Encino, CA (Interdenom)  
 Fresno, CA \*  
 Los Angeles, CA  
 Los Angeles, CA (Español)  
 Oakland/ East Bay, CA  
 Oakland/ East Bay, CA (Español)  
 Orange County, CA (Español)  
 Riverside County/Temecula, CA  
 Sacramento, CA \*  
 Sacramento, CA (Interdenom)  
 San Bernardino, CA \*  
 San Jose, CA (Interdenom)  
 Santa Clara/Alameda Counties, CA (Interdenom)  
 Santa Clarita, CA  
 Santa Cruz Valley, CA (Interdenom)  
 Santa Rosa/St. Helena, CA  
 Stockton, CA  
 Stockton, CA (Español)  
 Denver, CO  
 Denver, CO (Español)  
 Hamden, CT  
 Litchfield, CT  
 Georgetown, DE (Interdenom)  
 Wilmington, DE  
 Doral, FL (Español)  
 Jacksonville/St. Augustine, FL  
 Miami, FL  
 Miami, FL (Español)  
 Palm Beach, FL  
 Palm Beach, FL (Español)  
 Tallahassee, FL  
 Tampa, FL \*  
 Atlanta, GA  
 Atlanta, GA (Interdenom)  
 Atlanta, GA (for Military & Veterans)  
 Columbus, GA (Interdenom)  
 Savannah/Augusta, GA  
 Honolulu, HI  
 Cedar Falls, IA  
 Council Bluffs, IA  
 Dubuque, IA  
 Sioux City, IA  
 Boise, ID  
 Chicago, IL (Interdenom)  
 Chicago, IL (Polish)  
 Joliet/Lemont, IL  
 Peoria, IL\*  
 Springfield, IL  
 Central Indiana, IN  
 Indianapolis, IN  
 Northwest Indiana, IN  
 Hays, KS  
 Wichita, KS  
 Bowling Green/Owensboro, KY  
 Lancaster, KY  
 Louisville, KY (Interdenom)  
 Lafayette, LA  
 Lake Charles, LA  
 New Orleans, LA  
 Shreveport, LA  
 Greater Boston Area, MA  
 Springfield, MA  
 Baltimore, MD  
 Baltimore County, MD (Interdenom)  
 DC Metro Area, MD (Español)  
 Ocean City, MD  
 Temple Hills, MD (Interdenom)  
 Portland, ME  
 Ann Arbor, MI  
 Detroit, MI  
 Detroit, MI (Español, Interdenom)  
 Grand Rapids, MI  
 Lansing, MI  
 Petoskey, MI  
 Saginaw, MI  
 Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN  
 Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN (Español)  
 Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN (Interdenom)  
 Kansas City, MO  
 St. Louis, MO  
 Great Falls/Helena, MT  
 Asheville, NC  
 Charlotte, NC  
 Morganton, NC (Interdenom)  
 Winston-Salem/Greensboro, NC\*  
 Hankinson, ND  
 Richardton, ND  
 Omaha, NE (Interdenom)  
 Omaha/Lincoln, NE  
 Greater Boston Area, NH  
 Cherry Hill, NJ  
 Newark, NJ  
 Paterson/Morris County, NJ  
 Trenton, NJ  
 Albuquerque/Santa Fe, NM  
 Las Cruces, NM  
 Las Vegas, NV  
 Las Vegas, NV (Español)  
 Albany Area, NY \*  
 Northern NY, NY  
 Columbus, OH  
 Steubenville, OH  
 Oklahoma City, OK \*  
 Tulsa, OK  
 Eugene, OR  
 Medford, OR  
 Portland, OR  
 Allentown, PA\*  
 Clarks Summit/Scranton, PA  
 Doylestown, PA \* (English & Polish)  
 Lancaster County, PA \*  
 Philadelphia Area, PA  
 Pittsburgh, PA  
 Pittsburgh/Western PA, PA (Interdenom)  
 North Providence, RI  
 Providence, RI \*  
 Charleston, SC\*  
 Rock Hill, SC \*  
 Upstate/Greenville, SC  
 Rapid City, SD  
 Sioux Falls, SD  
 Knoxville, TN  
 Memphis, TN  
 Agnes/Fort Worth/Glen Rose, TX  
 Austin, TX  
 Central Texas, TX (Interdenom)  
 Corpus Christi, TX  
 Cypress/Katy, TX (Interdenom)  
 Dallas, TX  
 Dallas, TX (Español)  
 El Paso, TX \*  
 Houston, TX  
 Houston, TX (Interdenom)  
 Lubbock, TX  
 Midland, TX  
 Rio Grande City, TX \*  
 San Angelo, TX  
 Richmond, VA  
 Roanoke/Blacksburg, VA (Interdenom)  
 Williamsburg, VA  
 Burlington, VT  
 Central Washington, WA  
 Seattle/Western Washington, WA\*  
 Spokane, WA  
 Fond Du Lac, WI (Interdenom)  
 Janesville, WI (Interdenom)  
 Lake Geneva, WI (Interdenom) \*  
 Madison, WI  
 Stevens Point, WI  
 Wheeling, WV

**\*Holds English & Spanish Retreats**

# International Rachel's Vineyard Sites

## Africa:

Tiko, **Cameroon**  
Cape Town, **South Africa**  
Johannesburg, **South Africa**

## Asia:

**China**  
**Hong Kong**  
Beirut, **Lebanon**  
Penang, **Malaysia**  
Magadan, **Russia**  
Vladivostok, **Russia**  
**Singapore**  
Incheon City, **South Korea**  
Ba-Li, New Taipei City, **Taiwan**  
Tai-Shan, New Taipei City,  
**Taiwan**  
Taipei, **Taiwan**  
**Vietnam**

## Australia:

Brisbane, QLD **Australia**  
Canberra, NSW **Australia**  
Melbourne, VIC **Australia** (Interdenom)  
Perth, **Australia**  
Sydney, NSW **Australia**  
**New Zealand**

## Central America:

Moncion, **Dominican Republic**  
Santiago, **Dominican Republic**  
San Salvador, **El Salvador**  
Lake Atitlan Region/San Juan,  
**Guatemala**  
Catedral, Juticalpa, Olancho,  
**Honduras**  
Tegucigalpa, **Honduras**  
Kingston, **Jamaica**  
Managua, **Nicaragua**  
Matagalpa, **Nicaragua**

## By Continent

### Europe:

Vienna, **Austria**  
Vienna, **Austria** (Interdenom)  
Birmingham, **England**  
Essex, **England**  
Kent, **England**  
Leeds, **England**  
Stroud, Gloucestershire, **England**  
Tórshavn, **Faroe Islands**  
Maison de la Trinite, **France**  
Mere de Misericorde, IDF, **France**  
Hildesheim, **Germany**  
Tiszaalpár, **Hungary**  
Cork, **Ireland**  
Bologna, **Italy**  
Vilnius, **Lithuania**  
**Netherlands**  
Belfast, **Northern Ireland**  
Piwniczna Zdroj, **Poland**  
Poznan, **Poland**  
Szczecin, **Poland**  
Warsaw, **Poland**  
Lisbon, **Portugal**  
Cluj-Napoca, **Romania**  
Glasgow, **Scotland**  
North-East, **Scotland** (Interdenom)  
Banska Bystrica, **Slovakia**  
Ljubljana, **Slovenia**  
Barcelona, **Spain**  
Tenerife, Islas Canarias, **Spain**

### North America:

**US Sites on Previous Page**  
Cache Creek, BC **Canada**  
Kelowna, BC **Canada**  
N.Battleford, SK **Canada**

Newfoundland, **Canada**  
Ottawa, ON **Canada** (Interdenom)  
Sherbrooke, **Canada**  
Thunder Bay, ON **Canada**  
Vancouver, BC **Canada**  
Winnipeg MB, **Canada** (Interdenom)  
Yellowknife, NT **Canada**  
Culiacán, **Mexico**  
Hermosillo Sonora, **Mexico**  
Irapuato, **Mexico**  
Mexico City, **Mexico**  
Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, **Mexico**  
Nogales, **Mexico**  
Tijuana, **Mexico**  
Zapopan Jalisco (Cerca de  
Guadalajara), **Mexico**  
Provincia Colon, **Panama**  
San Juan, **Puerto Rico**

### South America:

Bahía Blanca, **Argentina**  
Buenos Aires, **Argentina**  
Mendoza, **Argentina**  
Tucumán, **Argentina**  
Iquique, **Chili**  
Bogota, **Colombia**  
Bogota Minuto de Dios, **Colombia**  
Cajica, **Colombia**  
Cali, **Colombia**  
Cartagena, **Colombia**  
Duitama-Boyaca, **Colombia**  
Medellin, **Colombia**  
Pereira, **Colombia**  
Quito, Pichincha, **Ecuador**  
Asunción, **Paraguay**  
Lurin, **Peru**  
Miraflores, **Peru**  
Caroni, **Trinidad**  
Montevideo, **Uruguay**



# National Happenings

## Hope, Healing After Abortion

By Pamela Seal

Diocese of Lake Charles

No matter what side of the abortion issue you are on — pro-life or pro-choice — one thing is certain. The life of a child is lost every single time. Whether the abortion took place last week, last year or even 30 years ago, Marjorie Long wants people to know something else that is certain: forgiveness and healing through a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat.

“Healing is out there. It is available,” said Long, the licensed site leader for Rachel's Vineyard in the Diocese of Lake Charles. “We are going to take them (retreatants), love them, welcome them, and serve them the best way we know how.”

A worldwide ministry for Priests for Life and sponsored locally by the Diocese, the weekend scripture-based retreat is for anyone struggling with guilt, depression, regret or other difficult emotions brought about from an abortion. The step-by-step process provides “therapy for the soul” in a safe, strictly confidential, non-judgmental environment.



*A monstrance designed especially for Rachel's Vineyard retreats  
is hand carved in the form of the Blessed Virgin Mary, cradling the Eucharist.*

*Adorers are invited to pray for the retreatants  
between the hours of 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. on Saturday of the retreat.*

“The salvation of souls is what I am after in these retreats,” said Long with determination in her voice. “If their soul is truly healed and they feel forgiveness from God's mercy and love, they will have the power to work through all the pain,” she said. “It's still going to be a journey for them. It's not going to happen with just one weekend, but they will have what it takes to continue on their journey of healing.”

This summer marks 10 years for Rachel's Vineyard in the Diocese of Lake Charles with Long having completed 18 months of training and preparation before that first retreat in July 2010. There were nine retreatants with 25 babies memorialized. The following year, Long began scheduling two retreats per year and has done so ever since with Saint Charles Center in Moss Bluff as the setting for sensory-based therapy which integrates emotional, psychological and spiritual dimensions.

# National Happenings

Founded in 1995 by psychologist Dr. Theresa Burke, Rachel's Vineyard Ministries has grown to more than 1,000 retreats annually, at 375 sites, held in 49 states and 70 countries, with many new sites in development. The retreats are currently offered in 27 languages in both Catholic and interdenominational settings.

The weekend offers an opportunity to examine the abortion experience and identify ways that the loss has impacted the persons involved. The retreat helps to acknowledge any unresolved feelings that many individuals struggle with after abortion. These buried feelings can surface many years after the fact and can lead to symptoms of post-abortion trauma and self-destruction taking on many forms.

Having worked in a pregnancy crisis center for 10 years, Long had seen firsthand the impact abortions can have on the mothers of unborn children. It is all too common for them to experience feelings of emptiness, low self-esteem, self-hatred, depression and low self-worth, she said.

Acknowledging that what she witnesses weighs heavily on her heart, Long said she knows without a doubt that God wanted this ministry in the Diocese; he just needed a servant. Still, she is careful to strengthen herself spiritually in order to fulfill her role.

"I know that God has called me, and he has given me the graces and gifts," said Long. "I armor myself with daily Mass, frequent confession, and receive the Eucharist as often as possible."

When Long hears people say that abortion is not really their concern, her response is: "It's all of our concern. It affects everyone because that is a life not here that God intended to be born. One abortion has such a rippling effect on so many people."

Long emphasizes that Rachel's Vineyard is for anyone who has been affected by an abortion or anyone who played a part in the abortion decision. She said for every abortion, multiple lives are affected — including mothers, fathers and family members of aborted children, as well as those who have been involved in the abortion industry — and it doesn't matter how long ago the abortion took place.

"Grief hits different people at different times. Certain things trigger their lives," she said. "They are not just dealing with the loss of the baby. Some people will also have triggers from the physical part of the abortion," Long continued. "It might be a smell, something that connects to the trauma that took place at the abortion clinic."

While we are all called to forgive one another, sometimes the hardest thing to do is to forgive ourselves for our own sins. Rachel's Vineyard wants to help the retreatants uncover what led them on their journey to making the decision to abort their baby, and then help them forgive themselves.

In one of the series of scriptural exercises, the retreatants reflect on the story of the Woman at the Well. (John 4: 4-30). It is during this part of the retreat where they are learning to let go of their shame.

"It's hard for them to let go of the guilt," Long said, "because the guilt is all they have left of the child they don't have anymore. Most of them have gone to confession over and over even before coming to the retreat," she continued, "but they are still trying to live with their decision. You cannot get through it until you go through it. They can go through it at Rachel's Vineyard."

Long said the retreat gives them permission to own their actions, to let it go, to give it to God, and to allow themselves to accept forgiveness.

# National Happenings

During another scriptural exercise, retreatants reflect on the story of the Blind Man. (Mark 10:46-52)

“In this exercise, we want them to understand, you are not a bad person. People can get caught in the devil’s trap,” said Long. “They begin to see where they were blinded. What was going on in their life that led them to the decision of abortion?”

A lot of Catholics let their choice to have one or more abortions keep them away from the sacraments. “When they have been living with this kind of sin, they are usually staying away from the very things that can help heal them,” said Long. “They lose sight of their faith.”

There is an opportunity during the retreat for the mothers to reconnect with their babies on a spiritual level. This is a chance to give the unborn children honor and dignity through a memorial service on the final day of the retreat. Because of the nature of the pregnancy loss, the baby was never held or properly buried, Long explained.

After sharing in the “Cup of Grace” segment, participants move directly into the memorial service — a time for mothers and fathers to place a bereavement doll in a “Moses” basket. Long said by doing so, this is another way to release the pain and heartache and place their baby in the arms of the Creator. It brings comfort, allowing to let go. Also during the service, a chance to reconnect with the unborn children is offered through poems, written letters and songs.

In addition to discussions and spiritual exercises, the weekend includes the Sacrament of Reconciliation, a Mass of Entrustment, and Exposition of the Holy Eucharist. A monstrance designed especially for Rachel’s Vineyard retreats is hand carved in the form of the Blessed Virgin Mary, cradling the Eucharist.

Retreatants are invited to kneel at the altar with the Blessed Sacrament and express out loud to Jesus what they are feeling as they gaze their eyes upon Christ.

“At the end of the road, when this part of their life is healed, the retreatants will have what it takes to live life,” said Long. “Yes, they own the consequences of their actions, but they can accept the healing. They are putting their relationship back together with God. He never left.”

The retreat format used in the Diocese of Lake Charles is Catholic-based, but any denomination is welcome to attend. Team members consist of a licensed counselor, women and men who have experienced abortion, compassionate volunteers and a priest. Retreat sizes are small, usually 8-10, so participants can receive individual care as needed. Nothing is forced on anyone during any time of the retreat.

The next Rachel's Vineyard Retreat is scheduled for Feb. 12-14 and Oct. 22-24 in 2021. Long encourages anyone to make the call, come with an open heart. “You are worthy of it,” she said.

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For more information on Rachel’s Vineyard or to register for an upcoming retreat, contact: Marjorie Long, site director in the Diocese of Lake Charles, at 337-489-2473, or email [rachels.vineyard@lcdiocese.org](mailto:rachels.vineyard@lcdiocese.org) For a national listing of retreat dates and locations as well as testimonials, visit [RachelsVineyard.org](http://RachelsVineyard.org)

# National Happenings

## Virtual Rachel's Vineyard Retreat

By Betsy Kopor

I wanted to share with you about our joint Fort Worth/Dallas Virtual Retreat on Sept. 11-13, 2020. It was wonderful! I don't think it replaces a face to face (F2F) retreat, but we felt the Lord's presence, just as much. He blessed the retreat mightily and was with us the entire weekend.

We had a mixed team, half from the Dallas team and half from the Fort Worth team. The team was experienced, and able to think on their feet. When they saw a need, they filled it. They were a blessing to the retreatants, and to each other. In short, an excellent team! The retreat went well because of our excellent team and the Lord's involvement!

The evaluations show that the retreatants were very happy and received much healing on the virtual retreat. It was very similar to the evaluations we receive on a F2F retreat. I just wish we had the ability to offer the sacraments during the retreat – they were sorely missed. The team deacon did an excellent job, though, and many blessings were given through the weekend.

A little background on some of the changes we made to accommodate a virtual format:

- We kept the retreat as intact as possible, only making changes to enhance the experiential process. The exercises/rituals required the most changes, to increase the experiential value in a virtual format, and to facilitate the lack of props, and to suit a shorter time frame.
- To enhance the visual experience, we created a powerpoint presentation, and presented slides to go with the readings, and to announce instructions, etc.
- We utilized the chat function in a variety of ways, including affirmations on Sunday.
- We used limited props. We determined what they may have available at home, and mailed other props to them. (Mailing is very expensive!)
- The Memorial Service had to be changed.
- Handouts were mostly the same, with a few additional ones to reinforce some topics (confessions, for example).
- We reduced some instructional text, songs, etc., to keep within time guidelines. We also included Zoom direction in the manual.
- The addition of an experienced Zoom Coordinator to the team is essential. We had an excellent Zoom Coordinator to handle the slides and transitions, solve problems, and tutor the attendees on using Zoom.

The retreat went well, with only a few minor glitches. I don't think it will replace the F2F retreat, but during the COVID pandemic, I believe it will bring healing to many. And on the upside, the cost is significantly lower than a F2F retreat. Not having to rent a facility and provide food is a great savings.

The Dallas and Fort Worth RV ministries hope that this will be useful to other RV teams who want to hold a virtual RV retreat. If you plan to hold a virtual retreat, we would love to help. If you would like more information, please contact Betsy Kopor at [betsy@racheltx.org](mailto:betsy@racheltx.org) or call 817 923 4757



# International Happenings

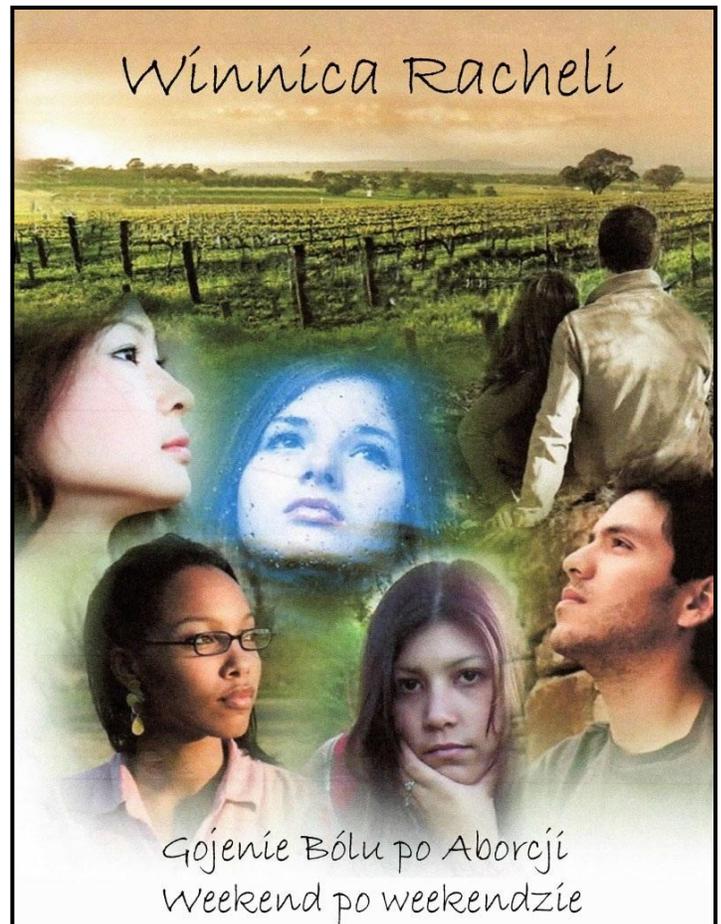
## Meeting with Polish Language retreat sites By. Sr Marcelina

On **December 2, 2020** all Polish Speaking Rachel's Vineyard sites met virtually via Zoom. Teams from Warszawa, Poznań, Piwniczna, and Szczecin represented Poland. In addition, a few members from Polish Teams in Chicago, IL and Doylestown, PA were able to participate in this meeting. Participants were overjoyed when Dr. Theresa Burke, founder of Rachel's Vineyard welcomed them while they were signing into Zoom. Father Tomaž Mikuš, SJ from Slovenia briefly participated and shared the possibility of future collaboration with the Polish sites during World Youth Day in Pilgrimage Extensions Options in Poland and Medjugorje. Furthermore, interest in introducing the Grief to Grace program in Poland is sincere and supported with prayerful discernment of many.

The meeting began with the Pater Noster sung by John Paul II. All participants were welcomed. Since it was the first virtual meeting, the participants introduced themselves and shared where they were from and how long they have been involved in Rachel's Vineyard Ministry. The excitement was evident when everyone was getting to know the other participants who work for the same good cause.

Dr. Burke shared her own acquaintances and memories of past meetings. She even shared a few words in Polish and showed a beautiful icon of Our Lady of Częstochowa which she received some time ago from the Warsaw and Silesia teams. No one, besides John Paul II, can be so close to a Polish heart as much as Our Lady of Częstochowa, Black Madonna. Sister Marcelina Mikulska, CSFN, who facilitated and translated the meeting, expressed appreciation in Dr. Burke's name for all that is done in the Polish language to accompany the Children of God on their way to healing after the pain of abortion. Some of the members of Polish Rachel's Vineyard are bilingual such as Stanley and Daria Zarczynski, Anna Pecak, and Agnieszka Lewandowska.

All members truly appreciated the introductory meeting. They are inspired greatly by Rachel's Vineyard dedication to the Catholic Church and Healing Ministry.



# International Happenings

## Rachel's Vineyard in China By Dr. Theresa Burke

We have learned that grief after the loss of a child is universal as we address the emotional and spiritual dimensions of abortion and miscarriage through our weekend retreats that integrate psychological and spiritual rituals that help people mourn their loss, share their stories, and acknowledge any unresolved feelings of anger and pain.

As the founders of Rachel's Vineyard, and pastoral associates of Priests for Life, Dr. Theresa Burke and her husband Kevin, a licensed social worker, have made it their mission to help spread the healing work of Rachel's Vineyard to the far corners of the earth.

We ask for your special prayers for a new retreat site in the Macau Diocese, a special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China. Dr. Burke was honored to give them the rights to translate and publish the Retreat Manual into Cantonese. This language is also widely used throughout Canada in Chinese communities, so there are plans to share this new work with Chinese communities in other parts of the world. Because our retreat manuals have the imprimatur, it will be usable for Catholic churches in Taiwan and Hong King as well. We also have Interdenominational Rachel's Vineyard Retreats that have been going on in the Mandarin Chinese language in Singapore, Hong King and Taiwan. We are excited to have a second Chinese language available.

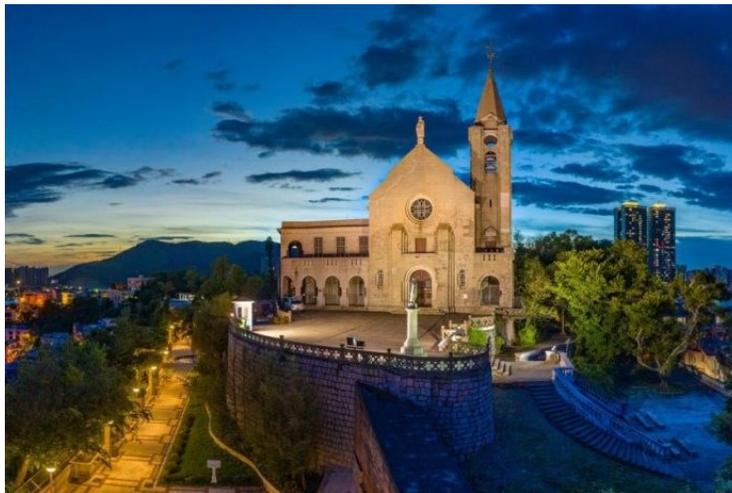


Photo shows Penha Church, where the former Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Macau dwelled. (Courtesy of the Chinese Cultural Exchange Association)

Macau is the most densely populated region of world. It is also home to a vast and extraordinarily deep-rooted Catholic heritage. In fact, 2026 will mark the anniversary of 450 years of Catholic history in the region which has served as a mustard seed for the Asian church.

The area of Macau was settled by Portuguese centuries ago and they built many Catholic churches, convents and schools. It has remained the cultural center for Catholicism in Asia to this day. Macau draws people from all over China who wish to seek the truth and light of Jesus.

Bishop Steven Lee of the Diocese of Macau has approved a new Rachel's Vineyard retreat team to translate

# International Happenings

the Rachel's Vineyard Manuel into Chinese (using Traditional Chinese characters in Cantonese). Once the manual is complete, he has given his full blessing for a team to organize and conduct Rachel's Vineyard retreat weekends in the diocese.

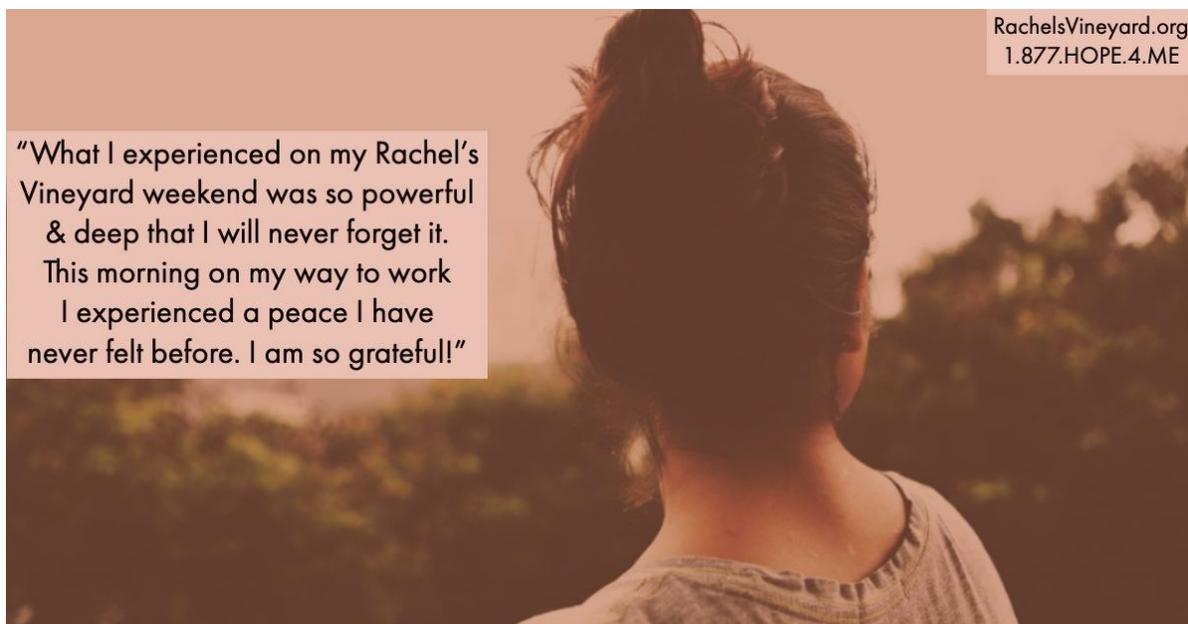
The coordinator for the committee for Life shares that her goal with this new site is to reach all of those who have been hurting and suffering in silence after pregnancy loss in China to finally have a place to go to seek solace, understanding and most importantly healing from the pain of their abortions.

Ms Chen met Father Frank Pavone at the Regina Apostolorum Pontifical University where he was teaching some classes. As a result of that encounter, she translated his book *Pro-Life Reflections for Every Day* into Chinese. She shares that it's messages of life are spread through facebook and social media and that it is widely shared.

Ms Chen asks that we entrust this mission to Our Lady of Guadalupe and Mother Teresa for their intercession as she completes the translations and begins training to become facilitators.

We would like to thank Bishop Stephen Lee, the Bishop of Macau for being a beacon of light for the pro-life ministries in Macau and beyond.

We are grateful to all the volunteers, supporters, outreach organizations, mental health professionals, pastoral care workers, clergy, and pregnancy centers, ministries from so many denominations, and Catholic diocese that collaborate with us. Thank you for being a lifeboat for rescue, recovery and redemption!



# News From Around the Vineyard

## International Office

In the office located in King of Prussia, PA we have Dr. Theresa Burke, founder; Katie D'Annunzio, office manager; Lairen Vogan, executive assistant; and Kate O'Donnell, administrative assistant.

## On the Radio:

On **January 14th**, **Dr Theresa Burke** was interviewed on Sacred Heart Radio.

On **March 31, 2020**, **Dr. Theresa Burke** was interviewed on Radio Maria with Janet Morana.

**Kevin Burke** was interviewed on **Radio Maria** multiple times throughout the year. To hear past interviews go to:

<http://radiomaria.us/the-gospel-of-life/>

**Dr. Theresa Burke** was also interviewed multiple times by Fr. Frank Pavone on **EndAbortion.TV**, the broadcast channel of Priests for Life.



## Rachel's Vineyard was featured by a number of media sources this year:

### **Mourning Missing Children on Mother's Day**

**By: Kevin and Dr. Theresa Burke**

<https://thechristianreview.com/mourning-missing-children-on-mothers-day/>

### **From Mount Tabor to Calvary and the Empty Tomb: The Apostle Peter Offers Hope to Those Suffering Shame and Grief after Abortion**

**By: Kevin Burke**

<https://thechristianreview.com/from-mount-tabor-to-calvary-and-the-empty-tomb-the-apostle-peter-offers-hope-to-those-suffering-shame-and-grief-after-abortion/>

### **'Rachel's Vineyard' retreats for healing after abortion planned March 20-22**

<https://therecordnewspaper.org/rachels-vineyard-retreats-for-healing-after-abortion-planned-march-20-22/>

### **Closure of UK's oldest abortion centre is answer to prayers, say pro-lifers**

<https://www.christiantoday.com/article/closure.of.uk.s.oldest.abortion.centre.is.answer.to.prayers.say.pro.lifers/133955.htm>

### **How the Experience of Abortion can Keep Women and Men Trapped in Abusive Relationships**

[How the Experience of Abortion Can Keep Women and Men Trapped in Abusive Relationships](#)

### **Abortion Regret Isn't a Myth, Despite New Study**

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/news/2020/january/pro-life-abortion-regret-study-post-abortive-ministry.html>

# Training and Education in 2020

## Regional Training

A regional training offers support and guidance for the team(s) by Dr. 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: **Lake Charles, LA**

## Virtual Trainings:

*Due to the Coronavirus many trainings became virtual events:*

On **May 29th**, Dr. Theresa Burke spoke at a virtual fundraiser, **Freeways - Art for A Cause**.

On **June 19th**, Dr. Theresa Burke was a speaker at the **Catholic Medical Bootcamp**.

On **July 29th**, Dr. Theresa and Kevin Burke, held a seminar for **Choose Grace International**.

On **October 10th**, Dr. Theresa Burke held a team training for our teams in **Slovenia**.

On **October 14th**, Dr. Theresa Burke gave a presentation for the St. John the Baptist Catholic Church.

On **November 21st**, Dr. Theresa Burke held a team training for our site in **Los Angeles, CA**.

On **December 2nd**, Dr. Theresa Burke met with our **Polish teams from around the world**. We had 7 teams in attendance, 5 from sites within Poland and 2 from Polish sites in the USA (Chicago, IL and Doylestown, PA) 32 team members in total.

## Other Speaking Events:

On **January 25th**, Dr. Theresa Burke met with one of the **Matagalpa, Nicaragua** site leaders.

On **February 27th**, Dr. Theresa Burke met with a journalist, **Rikha Rani** from the **Fuller Project**.

On **July 14th**, Dr. Theresa Burke met with the head of the Respect Life Office from **Macau, a special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China** about bringing Rachel's Vineyard to their Diocese.

On **August 26th**, Dr. Theresa Burke met with Monique LeCouflé, a team liaison leader for our sites in France.

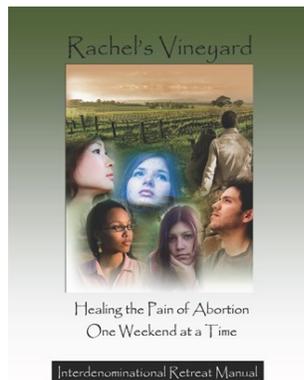
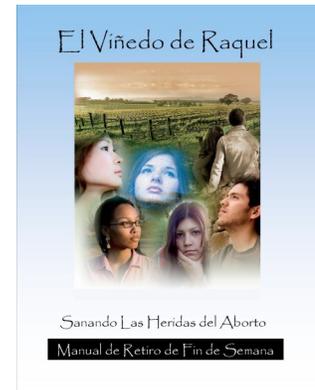
# Retreat Manuals

## *Spanish Rachel's Vineyard Catholic Retreat Manual*

Our newly revised and translated manual is available for approved Rachel's Vineyard retreat sites. Some of the changes include a more detailed anger exercise, and more specific instructions/cues, including a list of materials needed for each exercise.

We are also able to offer the Spanish online appendix with downloadable handouts to accompany the manual.

by: Dr. Theresa Burke, founder of Rachel's Vineyard Ministries.

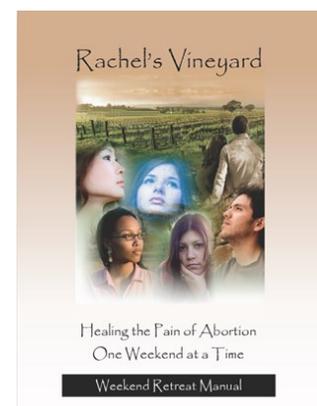


*Rachel's Vineyard Interdenominational Retreat Manual* is for Retreat Leaders to guide them through facilitating the psychological and spiritual journey of post-abortion healing.

by: Dr. Theresa Burke, founder of Rachel's Vineyard Ministries.

*Rachel's Vineyard Catholic Retreat Manual* is 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.

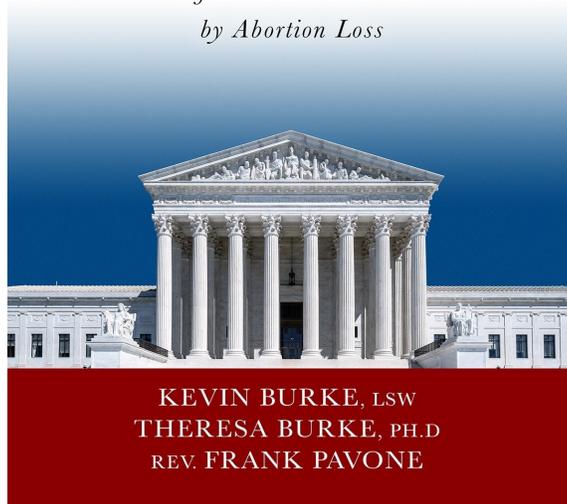
by: Dr. Theresa Burke, founder of Rachel's Vineyard Ministries.



# New Product

## Rivers of Blood Oceans of Mercy

*Healing a Nation  
Deformed and Divided  
by Abortion Loss*



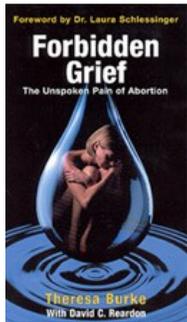
KEVIN BURKE, LSW  
THERESA BURKE, PH.D  
REV. FRANK PAVONE

***Rivers of Blood/Oceans of Mercy*** a new book by Kevin Burke, LSW; Theresa Burke, Ph.D; and Rev Frank Pavone lifts the veil on reproductive rights, and reveals how the fallout from more than 60 million abortions extends far beyond the private sphere of a woman's personal healthcare decisions; the impact is dynamic, and far-reaching:

- Learn how the failure to reconcile and grieve personal abortion led an OB/GYN physician, and a Roe vs. Wade attorney, to become pioneers in the movement to legalize abortion.
- Understand the connection between outraged feminists who see "rivers of blood" flowing from a judge's Supreme Court nomination, yet fail to see the dynamic relationship of abortion and sexual trauma.
- Discover how a the suppression of natural grief and loss find expression in the successful Netflix series "Stranger Things" set in the 1980's in a small town where children go mysteriously missing.
- Learn the toxic synergy of abortion with adult children of divorce, and the complex dynamics of couples that abort their children given a poor prenatal diagnosis.
- Are you shocked and confused as our nation descends deeper into transgender madness? There's an abortion connection.

After unveiling the deeper impact of Roe vs. Wade, *Rivers of Blood/Oceans of Mercy* presents an overview of the essential components of the healing journey. Church leaders will find valuable help for preaching and pastoral ministry. Counselors and caring friends and family will be equipped to reach out with love to those wounded by abortion.

# Other Books Available

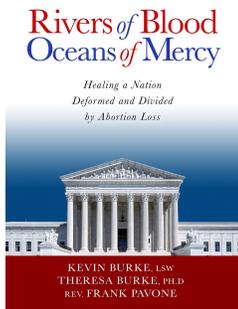
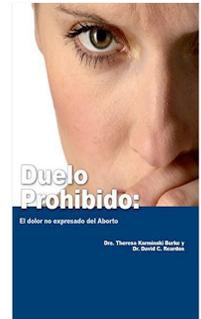


*Forbidden Grief: the Unspoken Pain of Abortion* is considered a definitive work on the study of traumatic reactions following abortion.

by: Dr. Theresa Burke, founder of Rachel's Vineyard Ministries.

*Duelo Prohibido: El Dolor No Expresada Del Aborto* is the Spanish version of *Forbidden Grief*.

by: Dr. Theresa Burke, founder of Rachel's Vineyard Ministries.

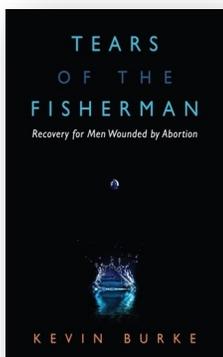
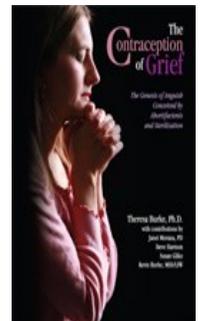


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*Contraception of Grief* exposes the pain that so many women endure when they realize that the contraceptives they used caused the deaths of their children. This book is for women, men, pastors, doctors, and all who minister to the family.

by: Dr. Theresa Burke, founder of Rachel's Vineyard Ministries.



*Tears of the Fisherman*, by Kevin Burke, LSW will help readers understand the wider impact of abortion on men, their relationships, families, faith and work lives.

Through case studies, personal testimony, and the author's 30 years of experience in post abortion counseling, you will encounter men devastated by unwanted abortions, the burden of shame and guilt carried by men who were passive at the time of the abortion decision or pressured their partners to abort, and the impact of abortion among the male prison population.

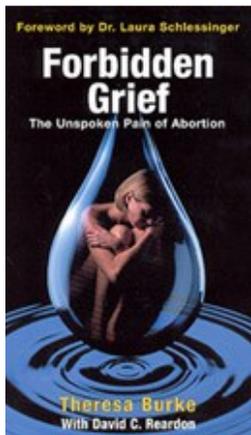
## Auf Erstehung Frauen und Männer berichten über ihre Heilung nach Abtreibung

This is a collection of Rachel's Vineyard and Silent No More Testimonies compiled in German.

Written by Fr Manfred. He is a member of a Rachel's Vineyard team.



# Translations of Forbidden Grief

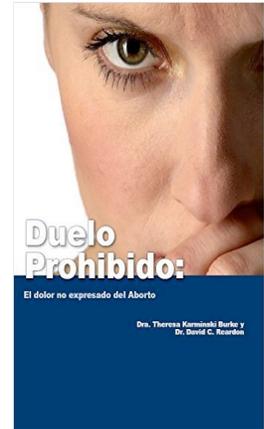


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by: Dr. Theresa Burke, founder of Rachel's Vineyard Ministries.



The Slovenian version of *Forbidden Grief*.

by: Dr. Theresa Burke, founder of Rachel's Vineyard Ministries.

Published in 2010

The Slovakian version of *Forbidden Grief*.

by: Dr. Theresa Burke, founder of Rachel's Vineyard Ministries.

Published in 2010



The Russian version of *Forbidden Grief*.

by: Dr. Theresa Burke, founder of Rachel's Vineyard Ministries.

Published in 2010

# Other Resources Available



## *Harvest of Hope*

by Theresa Burke, PhD, Kevin Burke, MSS and Fr. Frank Pavone.

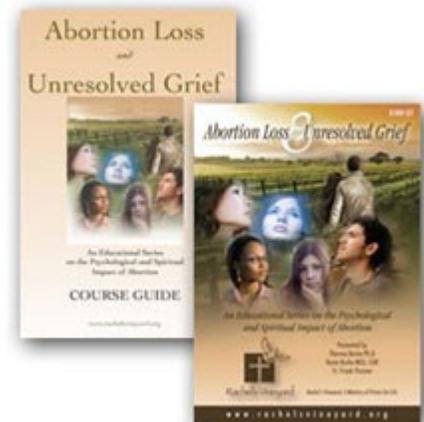
Harvest of Hope is a 30 minute DVD presentation intended for use on Rachel's Vineyard retreats. It offers a brief explanation of trauma, traumatic repetition, and other post abortion themes that are helpful for retreat participants to understand as they continue on their healing journey through the weekend,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

## *Abortion Loss and Unresolved Grief*

An Educational Series on the Psychological and Spiritual Impact of Abortion. The set includes a collection of professionally produced Presentations of Kevin and Dr. Theresa Burke's 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 series 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.

**Video Series Available for Download.**

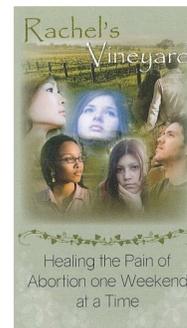


## *Promotional Materials*

The Rachel's Vineyard Brochure has 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 Rachel's Vineyard Brochure is now available in Spanish!

We are thrilled to include Rachel's Vineyard DropCards as a new available resource!



For ordering, and for more information about our materials, please contact Kate O'Donnell at 610-354-0555.

# Online Resources/Social Media

## 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. 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](http://www.rachelsvineyard.org)

## Newsletter: *Vine & Branches*

Our newsletter, *Vine & Branches*, goes out on the 1st 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://www.rachelsvineyard.org/resources/vine-branches.aspx>



## Youtube Channel

We post 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](http://www.youtube.com/rachelsvineyard)

## 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 11,069 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](http://www.facebook.com/rachelsvineyard)

# Social Media

## Twitter

We are excited to be a member of the Twitter community. Through social media sites like this, we are able to expand our reach and communicate with people in a new and exciting way. We have over 3,300 followers. We share encouraging posts, graphics, and quotes from those around the world, and share things that we hope will help and inspire our audience.

You can view our Twitter at: [www.twitter.com/rvhealing](http://www.twitter.com/rvhealing)

## Instagram

We are a part of the Instagram community. We are up to over 1,240 followers and counting. We share beautiful pictures along with messages of hope, love, support, and healing. Instagram is a beautiful way to share out message of healing with the world.

You can view our Instagram at: [www.instagram.com/rvhealing](http://www.instagram.com/rvhealing)

## Pinterest

Pinterest is another form of Social Media that we utilize to spread our ministry. We post graphics that people can save and use on their own. These graphics include pictures and quotes from our Rachel's Vineyard retreatants.

You can view our Pinterest at: [www.pinterest.com/rachelsvineyard](http://www.pinterest.com/rachelsvineyard)

