Rachel’s Vineyard

2022
A Year in Review
Dear Friends,

As we say goodbye to 2022 and prepare to welcome 2023, it’s not only an appropriate time to remember and celebrate our accomplishments; but to appreciate and embrace those closest to us who serve so faithfully in our family of ministries. Our retreat team members are ordinary people that God has called and gifted to dramatically reshape thousands of lives. I thank Him for each of you, keenly aware of the enormous love and tenderness you display to everyone who comes to Rachel’s Vineyard.

The overturning of Roe has bought forth a surge of women and men seeking to heal after abortion... and this has been an incredible opportunity for all of our ministries to engage in unique media opportunities and education about the trauma of abortion before lawmakers and the public.

Rachel’s Vineyard promotes a holistic approach to healing for both survivors and the professionals and retreat teams who support them, anchored in our track record that it is possible to not only overcome trauma, but also to thrive and reclaim joy and meaning as thousands of our leaders have become an incredible wellspring of life affirming and saving ministries.

Participants come filled with a passion and deep yearning for peace and healing, and they leave with far more than warm memories. For several days they immerse their painful histories with God’s Word, and many, for the first time, begin to hear the voice of Jesus and experience His touch with increasing clarity. Remaining on the vine and experiencing His continued presence, they feel His life flowing and growing within them. And it leaves an indelible mark on their lives. It settles into the soul in such a way that they are forever changed. It leaves a legacy of His power imprinted on their hearts – and ours.

That word – legacy – is one that I’ve been pondering lately. We just launched the first series of our Virtual International Leadership Conferences, which will become an online library of training courses to help many new teams have the confidence and training to carry out safe and effective trauma informed ministry. These teachings are not simply video clips or audio sound bites we load into the minds of others. Leaving a legacy is more than providing good advice. It’s making a substantial difference in the life of someone else.

One of the greatest facets of our ministry is that it brings a piercing ray of light and hope into some of the incredibly dark realities and traumatic experiences of this fallen world. No matter what we’ve been through, who we’ve lost, or what setbacks or violence we’ve experienced; we’re loved deeply by our Heavenly Father.
Indeed, this truth has the power to shatter unbearable shame in our utter hopelessness, grief, or despair. God is actively intervening with the gift of hope, mercy, compassion, and reconciliation. And the impact of this encounter helps people who have suffered the loss of their children to abortion, to also encounter the person of their child. As they honor and remember the lives of their lost children, they recognize the gift of their children’s priceless humanity, and they viscerally feel their little ones reaching out to them with love from a world beyond this one. The fruits of this experience are eternal. They remind us of God’s generous and selfless love for each and every one of us – and the home he has been preparing for us in the life to come, that includes our loved ones who have died.

That’s quite a spectacular legacy!

So, as we reflect on our accomplishments in the past year, I truly treasure how God has continued to inspire and spread our ministries throughout the world. Throughout covid and ongoing shutdown in other countries, I have been able to continue providing training and mentoring teams all over the world. As I mentioned above, we just started another virtual Leadership Conference called Leading with Light, which began in November and will run through June 2023. Participants can watch these videos wherever they can connect to the internet, so our ability to train entire teams outside the United States has expanded vastly. And, as the videos will remain on our website through June 2023, participants can watch them as often as they want and take the time to dive into the subjects. This new, virtual format also allows us to keep registration open for a longer period of time, so it’s not too late to join! Learn more, or register, at www.livingscriptureinstitute.org/index.php/leadership-conference

I am honored to work with many Rachel’s Vineyard team members in three separate retreat programs: Rachel’s Vineyard - Healing the Pain of Abortion; Grief to Grace – Healing the wounds of Abuse, and my newest retreat; Duty to Heal – Finding Peace for a Soldier’s Heart. So many who began in Rachel’s Vineyard continue to step out in courage to help women and men who are wounded by many other different types of trauma.

Rachel’s Vineyard continues to bring brave new voices offering their personal testimonies through the Silent No More Awareness Campaign founded by Janet Morana at Priests for Life and Georgette Fourney from Anglicans for Life. Silent no more has been a strategic partner with Rachel’s Vineyard since it began to bring awareness to the personal stories and painful aftermath of abortion.

And I could not ask for more from Frank Pavone and the entire staff at Priests for Life who work tirelessly on behalf of life. We are so blessed by our partnership! They are truly the silent force behind the scenes, promoting Rachel’s Vineyard and supporting its needs.

I am blessed by our small but devoted office staff (Katie D’Annunzio, Kelly Dunne, Mary Peterson and Katie O’Donnell), who all work tirelessly to ensure our site leaders have the opportunity to consult with us for everything they need to run smoothly. You are all amazing people, and I’m so very grateful for all you do and who you are.

I am so honored to stand with all those who provide Rachel’s Vineyard and the professionals who connect with our clinical trainings. I’m touched by all the advocates; the teachers; the lawmakers; the pregnancy resource centers, and all the donors whose support provides sponsorship for the tapestry of sites throughout the world that offer Rachel’s Vineyard.
With all my heart, I thank you for your friendship and all that you have allowed God to do through your generous service and LOVE! We certainly could not have accomplished anything without your own drive and passion to serve.

Blessings, Gratitude, and Peace!

Theresa M. Burke Ph.D.

Dr. Theresa Burke
Founder, Rachel’s Vineyard Ministries

As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the Sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

(Isaiah 55:10-11)
Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The year 2022 was the most eventful year ever for the pro-life movement, as we saw the reversal of Roe vs. Wade by the US Supreme Court Dobbs decision.

This is a tremendous victory which has intersected in many ways with our work of healing the wounds of abortion.

One of the reasons that grief after abortion is, as our Founder, Dr. Theresa Burke writes in her book, a “Forbidden Grief,” is that abortion has been considered by society as some kind of untouchable good against which one must never speak ill; a “constitutional right” which one must never attempt to contradict.

But now the Court has declared that it is not, and never has been, a “constitutional right.” They have knocked abortion down quite a few pegs, and left it to the American people and their legislators to consider and weigh its merits.

This gives, on a societal level, an added measure of weight to the grief and wounds so many experience after abortion, and that we in Rachel’s Vineyard work to heal.

People do not need to feel “forbidden” as they come forward and reveal how bad abortion has been for them and their families. No longer is abortion beyond the realm of questioning, criticizing, or mourning.

So, in 2022, we were certainly kept busy adjusting to the new landscape of a nation without Roe. Indeed, the whole pro-life movement, and the whole country, are still making that adjustment, and still working to understand all that it means.

At the same time, so much of our work remains the same. Drawing on the creative talent of Theresa Burke, with whom it is such a privilege and joy to work, and of Kevin Burke and the whole Rachel’s Vineyard team, we have embraced each day of this past year as an opportunity to let the world know that:

- We who reject abortion do not reject those who have had abortions,
- Healing, forgiveness, and welcome are available in Christ and in the Christian, pro-life community,
- Healing is a lifelong journey, and you don’t need to make it alone,
- We all have a role in understanding the healing journey and helping others to make it.

As you will read in this report, the work of training and education is flourishing, new sites are opening and existing sites continue to welcome so many in need, Church leaders, dioceses, and clergy across the Body of Christ are being equipped by Rachel’s Vineyard to lead others to healing, and the Good News of redemption after abortion is being broadcast on the airwaves, on social media, and in every other way.

I am honored to serve as the Pastoral Director of Rachel’s Vineyard. It is a joy for me to utilize the many platforms I
have to make people aware of this ministry of healing and to explain its significance, to assist in the training we provide in person and online, to interact with the site leaders and teams, and to experience firsthand the Rachel’s Vineyard weekend retreat. We all have someone to mourn. And what a blessing that we all have a ministry like this that helps us to do so.

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.

And we also rejoice in the partnership Rachel’s Vineyard has with the Silent No More Awareness Campaign (a joint project of Priests for Life and Anglicans for Life). God bless those who, after having advanced along the journey of healing, discern that they are called to share their stories. This advances their own healing and helps many others to begin their own.

Praise the Lord for all that has happened in 2022. Let’s embrace the year 2023 with renewed hope and commitment to Rachel’s Vineyard Ministries!

Sincerely,

Frank Pavone
Pastoral Director, Rachel’s Vineyard Ministries
National Director, Priests for Life
Since Rachel’s Vineyard started, over 28 years ago, more than 375 Retreat Sites have been developed.*

- 225+ have offered Catholic Retreats
- 75+ have offered Interdenominational Retreats
- 75+ have offered Spanish Retreats

**NEW INTERNATIONAL SITES**

Cordoba, Argentina  
Vancouver Island, Canada  
Soacha Cundinamarca, Colombia  
Norfolk, England  
Weinheim, Germany  
Guam  
Krakow, Poland  
Wrocław, Poland  
Naguabo, Puerto Rico  
Novosibirsk, Russia (Siberia)  
Orsha, Belarus (Nov. 2021)  
Ulan-Ude, Russia (Dec. 2021)

**NEW U.S. SITES**

Fairfield, CA  
Atlanta, GA (Military & Veterans)  
Carroll, IA  
Rockford, IL  
Biloxi, MS  
Spring Hill, TN

* Some sites offer multiple types of retreats; due to religious persecution in some countries, we do not list all retreat sites; we also have unlisted retreat sites that are hosted by prisons.
Thinking of bringing a new Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat Site to your area?

Contact our Rachel’s Vineyard International Office at: newsite@rachelsvineyard.org

If you’re not a team member with an existing Rachel’s Vineyard site but would like to start one in your area, the first step is to experience a Retreat. Your own healing must be the first step in this discernment process. Stay involved with the site where you attend your weekend, if possible. Attend support meetings and offer to help in small ways. All this will prepare you for the time when you are ready to become a new site leader. Our recommendation is not to pursue any leadership role until at least a year after your initial weekend.

INTERNATIONAL SITES

Kazakhstan
Milano, Italy
Gdansk, Poland
South Africa

NATIONAL SITES

Fargo, ND
Grants Pass, OR
Snapshots of 2022

Dr. Theresa Burke at the University of Delaware’s “Catholic Conversations,” speaking to the Catholic Campus Ministries on October 20, 2022. Looking Beyond Roe vs Wade: Pregnancy Grief and Loss was the topic.

Hosts for the evening: Dr. William Hamant (2nd from left), Director of Catholic Campus Ministries; Father Tim, Parish Priest (3rd from left); Bess McAneny, Principal Officer for Delaware Pro-Life Coalition (5th from left). Kelly Dunne, Administrative Assistant for Rachel’s Vineyard (1st from left). Dr. Theresa Burke, founder of Rachel’s Vineyard (4th from left).

Wilmington, DE, Rachel’s Vineyard Site members. Nan Freeman, Site Leader (1st from left).

Dr. Burke with Kate Haberland, abortion survivor and Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat participant.
United States
Rachel’s Vineyard Sites

Cullman, AL
Mobile, AL
Cottonwood, AZ (Interdenom)
Mesa/Phoenix, AZ
Phoenix, AZ (Español)
Prescott Valley, AZ
Tucson, AZ*
Yuma, AZ
Encino, CA (Interdenom)
Fairfield, 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*
San Bernardino, CA*
San Francisco Bay Area, 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)
Farmington, CT
Georgetown, DE (Interdenom)
Wilmington, DE

Doral, FL (Español)
Jacksonville/St. Augustine, FL
Miami, FL
Miami, FL (Español)
Orlando, FL*
Palm Beach, FL
Palm Beach, FL (Español)
Tallahassee, FL
Atlanta, GA
Atlanta, GA (Interdenom)
Atlanta, GA (for Military & Veterans)
Columbus, GA (Interdenom)
Savannah/Augusta, GA
Honolulu, HI
Carroll, IA
Cedar Rapids, IA
Council Bluffs, IA
Dubuque, IA
Sioux City, IA
Boise, ID
Chicago, IL (Interdenom)
Chicago, IL (Polish)
Joliet/Lemont, IL
Peoria, IL*
Rockford, 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 (Español, Interdenom)
Grand Rapids, MI
Lansing, MI
Petoskey, MI
Saginaw, MI
Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN
Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN (Español)
Kansas City, MO
St. Louis, MO
Great Falls/Helena, MT
Biloxi, MS
Asheville/Charlotte, NC
Morganton, NC (Interdenom)
Hankinson, ND
Richardton, ND
Omaha, NE (Interdenom)
Omaha/Lincoln, NE
Greater Boston Area, NH
Newark, NJ
Trenton, NJ
Albuquerque/Santa Fe, NM
Las Cruces, NM
Las Vegas, NV
Las Vegas, NV (Español)
Albany Area, NY*
Long Island/Huntington, NY*
Northern New York, NY
Columbus, OH
Steubenville, OH
Oklahoma City, OK*
Tulsa, OK
Eugene, OR
Medford, OR
Portland, OR
Allentown, PA*
Doylestown, PA* (English & Polish)
Lancaster County, PA*

Philadelphia Area, PA
Pittsburgh, PA
Pittsburgh/Western PA, PA (Interdenom)
Scranton/Nanticoke, PA
North Providence, RI
Providence, RI*
Charleston, SC*
Upstate/Greenville, SC
Rapid City, SD
Sioux Falls, SD
Knoxville, TN
Memphis, TN
Spring Hill, 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*
Richmond, VA
Burlington, VT
Central Washington, WA
Western Washington, WA*
Spokane, WA
Janesville, WI (Interdenom)
Lake Geneva, WI (Interdenom)*
Madison, WI
Waupaca, WI

*Holds English & Spanish Retreats
## International Rachel’s Vineyard Sites

### Africa:
- Tiko, Cameroon
- Abuja, Nigeria
- Cape Town, South Africa
- Johannesburg, South Africa

### Asia:
- Orsha, Belarus
- China
- Hong Kong
- Karaganda & Alma-Ata, Kazakhstan
- Beirut, Lebanon
- Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- Moscow, Russia
- St. Petersburg, Russia
- Ulan-Ude, Russia
- Vladivostok, Russia
- Novosibirsk, Russia (Siberia)

### 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

### Europe:
- Vienna, Austria
- Vienna, Austria (Interdenom)
- Birmingham, England
- Essex, England
- Kent, England
- Leeds, England
- Norfolk, England
- Stroud, Gloucestershire, England
- Tórshavn, Faroe Islands
- Maison de la Trinite, France
- Maison Saint Joseph, France
- Mere de Misericorde, IDF, France
- Hildesheim, Germany
- Weinheim, Germany
- Tiszaalpár, Hungary
- Cork, Ireland
- Bologna, Italy
- Vilnius, Lithuania

### Netherlands
- Belfast, Northern Ireland
- Gdansk, Poland
- Krakow, Poland
- Piwniczna Zdroj, Poland
- Poznan, Poland
- Szczecin, Poland
- Warsaw, Poland
- Wroclaw, 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 Pages
- Kelowna, BC Canada
- Lac Des Roches, BC Canada
- Newfoundland, Canada
- Ottawa, ON Canada (Interdenom)
- Saskatoon, SK Canada
- Sherbrooke, Canada
- Thunder Bay, ON Canada
- Vancouver, BC Canada
- Winnipeg MB, Canada (Interdenom)
- Yellowknife, NT Canada
- Culiacán, Mexico
- Hermosillo Sonora, Mexico
International Rachel’s Vineyard Sites

Irapuato, Mexico
Mexico City, Mexico
Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico
Nogales, Mexico
Tijuana, Mexico
Zapopan Jalisco (Cerca de Guadalajara), Mexico
Provincia Colon, Panama
Naguabo, Puerto Rico
San Juan, Puerto Rico

South America:
Bahia Blanca, Argentina
Buenos Aires, Argentina
Cordoba, Argentina
Mendoza, Argentina
Tucuman, Argentina
Iquique, Chili
Bogota, Colombia
Bogota Minuto de Dios, Colombia
Cajica, Colombia
Cali, Colombia
Cartagena, Colombia
Duitama-Boyaca, Colombia
Medellin, Colombia
Pereira, Colombia
Soacha Cundinamarca, Colombia
Quito, Pichincha, Ecuador

Asuncion, Paraguay
Lurin, Peru
Miraflores, Peru
Caroni, Trinidad
Montevideo, Uruguay

Dr. Theresa Burke, the main presenter for the evening, on the topic of Trauma and Healing.
Jan. 5  Pregnancy Help News — High price of failing to address the emotional aftermath of abortion, Kevin and Theresa Burke

Jan. 19  Pregnancy Help News — Nurse “loves” that she can deliver babies and facilitate a chemical abortion the same day, Kevin and Theresa Burke

April 6  Pregnancy Help News — What’s really eating at you? Abortion Recovery Awareness Month, Kevin and Theresa Burke

April 13  LifeSite News — People in Ukraine need food and shelter; abortion activists are sending abortion pills instead, Kevin and Theresa Burke

May 6  Pregnancy Help News — With healing, women who have had abortions can celebrate Mother’s Day, Kevin and Theresa Burke

May 20  Pregnancy Help News — Will overturning Roe tear America apart? Kevin and Theresa Burke

June 15  Soul — Journey to the heart of the Catholic faith, Kevin and Theresa Burke

June 17  LifeNews — Fathers face significant trauma when their child is killed by abortion, Kevin Burke

June 17  Catholic Online — Which Handmaid’s Tale will you believe? Kevin Burke

June 24  Pregnancy Help News — With the death of Roe, it’s time to heal from abortion, Kevin and Theresa Burke

July 11  Kevin Burke, LSW, was a guest on the “Jim and Joy Radio Show” on EWTN.

Aug. 24  The Stream — Netflix’s Woodstock 99 and USA 2022: Kerosene – Match – Boom, Kevin Burke

Sept. 23  Pregnancy Help News — The elephant in the examination room, Kevin and Theresa Burke

Oct. 10  LifeNews — Company that make Zyklon B for Nazi holocaust made the first abortion pill, Kevin and Theresa Burke

Nov. 4  LifeNews— When you hate people, you call Republican women “roaches” and unborn babies “parasites,” Kevin Burke

Dec. 13  Kevin Burke, LSW, was a guest on the "Prolife Guy’s Podcast" with host Cameron Côté, Western Outreach Director at the Canadian Centre for Bio-Ethical Reform.
Rachel’s Vineyard Virtual Leadership Conference  
2022-2023

In conjunction with Living Scripture Institute, Rachel’s Vineyard is holding our first Virtual Leadership Conference! The first session began Monday, Nov. 14, 2022, with classes like The Biblical Basis of Rachel’s Vineyard, Healing in Culture of Rage, Sleep Deprivation, Approaching the Neuro-Science of Healing Trauma, and Military and Abortion, just to name a few. Our illustrious presenters are: Dr. Theresa Burke, Msgr. Mike Mannion, Frank Pavone, Nancy Blume, and Jody Duffy.

All of the courses will remain on our website, so it’s not too late to join! Regardless of when you start, you can watch the videos as often as you like. So far, we’ve gotten rave reviews:

“I have just watched Healing in a Culture of Rage. Absolutely brilliant - and looking forward to watching more, already feeling inspired.”

“The conference sessions are great!”

“I already watched three of the videos and can’t wait to watch the rest.”

“The video webpage is simple, easy to navigate, and professional.”

Next year, our sessions are scheduled for February 6, April 3, and June 12. You can enjoy presentations by Dr. Theresa Burke, Kevin Burke, Frank Pavone, Janet Morana, Dr. Martha Shuping, and Emily Babilonia.

The courses promise to be equally informative: Forgiveness; Shockwaves; Staying Healthy in a High Stress Ministry; Abortions, Suicide, and Depression; Men and Abortions; and Mentoring and Starting Rachel’s Vineyard Teams.

Want to connect with other members of the Rachel’s Vineyard family? We’re planning a live Meet and Greet as part of our February session, so you can exchange ideas and insights with team members from around the globe!

Rachel’s Vineyard Retreats Offer Post-Abortion Healing

By Elizabeth Wong Barnstead

OWENSBORO, Ky. (CNS) — Megan was “at first super-excited” when she learned about the concept of a Rachel’s Vineyard retreat, “but as the date got closer I got nervous,” she said.

Rachel’s Vineyard, an international program that started in 1995, now offers weekend retreats worldwide that aim to bring healing for women and men suffering from the effects of abortion.

Megan, who asked that her last name not be used, said she almost turned around on her way to the retreat.

But she decided to continue and found it to be a positive experience that she said helped her deal with repressed emotions from her experience with an abortion 30 years ago.

“Coming through the retreat, I found that God forgives,” she told The Western Kentucky Catholic, newspaper of the Diocese of Owensboro.

Today, Megan is part of the team with Rachel’s Vineyard of Kentucky.

“I’ve always wanted to help people who were in my situation, but I didn’t know how,” she said. Now she feels she can “make a difference in other people’s lives.”

Father Ben Cameron, a priest of the Fathers of Mercy religious community based in Auburn, Kentucky, helped start Rachel’s Vineyard of Kentucky and is the site leader of the western Kentucky team.

He said Rachel’s Vineyard team leaders are usually laywomen, but he has remained in this role since the
Rachel’s Vineyard Retreats Offer Post-Abortion Healing (cont’d)

team’s beginning in 2005 and knows a number of fellow priests who also serve in Rachel’s Vineyard’s healing ministry. The priest said the retreat design can help people process other types of grief, such as miscarriages or even knowing someone else who experienced an abortion.

Ultimately, the purpose of the retreat is “helping men and women open their hearts to Jesus Christ as the healer,” he said, adding that “it is not just emotional, but a spiritual journey of the heart.”

“I’ve seen people come in very hardened, perhaps hateful of men, and walk out completely different,” he said.

A typical retreat has a team of six or seven people, including a facilitator, a priest, a professional therapist, a person who does the audio/visual, and one or two people who lead the readings, meditations and prayers.

Although the founder of Rachel’s Vineyard, Theresa Karminski Burke, is Catholic, the program offers a Catholic version and an interdenominational version.

The priest said generally, more women come than men, but it is always open to both. Participants also must be at least 18 years of age but that “you’re never too old to make the retreat.”

Father Cameron said that if someone has a person in their life that had an abortion “that person may be hurting deeply. They don’t feel they have permission to grieve.” He said “offering to go and make the retreat with them may open the door for someone — saying ‘I would love to walk this with you.’”

In fact, hopeafterabortionky.com, the website for Rachel’s Vineyard of Kentucky, encourages people to consider inviting their spouse or support person to accompany them on the retreat.

He said Rachel’s Vineyard has found that many people who had abortions also had been sexually abused, which led Burke to develop a sister retreat in 2005 called Grief to Grace, for individuals to find healing who have endured physical, emotional, sexual and/or spiritual abuse.

Sometimes people bring their stories of abuse to Rachel’s Vineyard and it can help them heal, “but for some, the trauma is so deep that they need something more,” he said.

Ministering with Rachel’s Vineyard has shown him “some of the most powerful experiences of being a spiritual father and shepherd. It’s made me so much more cognizant of the pain and trauma that people experience.”

Megan encourages anyone who might need to attend a Rachel’s Vineyard retreat to consider signing up, stressing: “God is forgiving and he will accept you in his open arms. You are worth it. You don’t need to carry around this burden anymore.”

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Editor’s Note: For more information about the national Rachel’s Vineyard healing ministry for postabortion trauma and grief, visit the official Rachel’s Vineyard website, www.RachelsVineyard.org, or call 1-877-HOPE-4-ME (1-877-467-3463). To learn about the sister retreat program, Grief to Grace, visit www.GriefToGrace.org. Copyright (c) 2022 Catholic News Service. Reprinted with permission from CNS. www.catholicnews.com
Dear Theresa, Katie and Team,

We are proud and honored to be celebrating 25 years since our first retreat in 1997.

The Catholic Virginian shared our story on the front page of last week’s edition. We have attached the link for you to share (https://catholicvirginian.org/news/local-abortion-healing-ministry-marks-25th-anniversary).

The inception of the Richmond Chapter of Rachel’s Vineyard began in 1995, when KayMarie and Joe Geiger attended a Catholic Conference and met Father Mike Mannion. They started discussing the need for healing from abortion. He referred this faith-filled couple to Dr. Theresa Burke and thus began a beautiful relationship resulting in the longest consecutive running satellite site for Rachel’s Vineyard. Kay and Joe trained under Theresa for two years before conducting the first retreat in Richmond, VA, in 1997.

We sadly lost our sweet Joe in 2011 and our fearless KayMarie in 2014, but their legacy lives on. We are still going strong with 16 committed and devoted team members. We have memorialized 1012 babies, who are forever memorialized in our book of remembrance, and have ministered to countless women and men.

God has been good to us and we are honored and humbled to be called to the Vineyard to serve Him. We feel so blessed to be a part of this beautiful RV family.

God Bless,

Matt, Marty and Maggie
Co-Facilitators of Rachel's Vineyard
Fr. Jay Biber
Chaplain of Rachel's Vineyard
Ministry of Our Lady of Lourdes
Diocese of Richmond
RV4hope.org website
Rachel’s Vineyard Ministries Offers Path to Reconciliation Following Abortion
(Newark, New Jersey, celebrates 25 years of Rachel’s Vineyard Retreats)

By Jaimie Julia Winters

It took Patty almost 20 years to come to terms with an abortion she had in 1999.

“I lost my faith through the sin of abortion, Patty said. “It makes you feel estranged from the Church.” But after attending a Rachel’s Vineyard retreat for mothers and fathers who struggle with their abortion decision, Patty found the peace and forgiveness she was yearning for, she said. She also found her way back to Christ and the Church.

“You are always harder on yourself and don’t ever see a path to forgiveness,” Patty said. “But at the retreat, you are treated like you are worthy. At the retreat, I received the mercy of forgiveness.”

Rachel’s Vineyard Ministries was started in 1994 by Dr. Theresa Burke, who noticed that the women who attended her weekly support groups for post-abortive women needed an entire weekend to “do the work” of grieving their abortion. According to the organization’s website, the name “Rachel’s Vineyard” can be traced to Biblical text. “Rachel” refers to an Old Testament figure in the book of Jeremiah: “Rachel mourns her children; she refuses to be consoled because her children are no more.” The word “vineyard” refers to Chapter 15 of the Gospel of John, where Jesus says, “In the same way, you cannot bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, and I in him will bear much fruit, for you can do nothing without me.”

Soon after the weekend retreats were launched, the Archdiocese of Newark stepped on board, adopting Rachel’s Vineyard as its outreach to those suffering from an abortion decision.

On Saturday, Oct. 29, the Office of Respect Life celebrated its 25th anniversary with Rachel’s Vineyard Ministry. Archdiocesan priests who have helped at the retreats, Ministry of Life employees, Rachel’s Vineyard counselors, and alums gathered at the Pastoral Center in Newark.

“Lifting people wounded by abortion and inviting them back into the light of Our Lord Jesus Christ has been a grace in the lives of many,” said Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., Archbishop of Newark, in a message congratulating the ministry on its 25th anniversary. “In times of personal distress, trauma, or the loss of life, we often look to God. He is ever so present in the midst of our suffering, and His loving grace is abundant.”
Rachel’s Vineyard Ministries Offers Path to Reconciliation Following Abortion (cont’d)

At Rachel’s Vineyard, “Peace is found. Lives are restored. A sense of hope and meaning for the future is rediscovered,” Cardinal Tobin said.

Because every abortion experience is different, the retreat offers an opportunity for participants to examine their individual abortion experience, identify how the loss has impacted them, and help acknowledge any unresolved feelings they are struggling with, according to the Rachel’s Vineyard website (www.RachelsVineyard.org).

Most profound to the many alums is receiving reconciliation after talking with priests about their abortion decision.

Theresa Burke said that when people hear a message of forgiveness and healing rather than the idea that God wants to punish them for committing an “unforgivable sin,” they leave behind the despair and feel grace and hope for the first time.

That was certainly the experience for Cheryl A. Riley, the director of the Archdiocese of Newark’s Respect Life Office, which coordinates Rachel’s Vineyard retreats for the Archdiocese. Riley attended the weekend retreat after seeing an ad for Rachel’s Vineyard in her church bulletin at Queen of Peace Church in North Arlington 12 years after her abortion.

Riley said that after her abortion at 19, she became angry and depressed. She was mad at her boyfriend, who she felt pressured her to have an abortion; the doctors and nurses, whom she felt did not give her the emotional care needed following the trauma; and her elders for failing to educate her. But she was mostly angry at herself. She said she turned to alcohol and drugs to cope and, at one point, was suicidal.

She attended the retreat and said she was able to accomplish three things she could not do before: ask and receive the forgiveness of God and her child, forgive those who were involved in her abortion experience, and – most of all – forgive herself.

The women and men who participate in the retreats are encouraged to envision their children, name them, and grieve the loss with a memorial service and a Mass of entrustment.

Donna, who attended a retreat following an abortion, said the experience brought her back to the Church and Jesus. She said that until the retreat, she had never acknowledged what she had been through with her abortion decision.

Mary Kominsky, another Rachel’s Vineyard alumna, says mothers who have experienced abortion all too often say they are “fine.” Kominsky said she, too, thought she had dealt with the trauma and had moved on until Rachel’s Vineyard taught her how to truly grieve.

Alumni Karen Searson said that the Catholic Church was the last place she would have looked for help after her abortion, but she said God called her to the retreat.
Rachel’s Vineyard Ministries Offers Path to Reconciliation Following Abortion (cont’d)

“It wasn’t until I wanted to return to my faith ... and there was this brick wall. How do I get past this?” Searson said about her abortion.

“Because of the emotional numbness and secrecy that often surrounds an abortion experience, conflicting emotions both during and after the event may remain unresolved. These buried feelings can surface later and may be symptoms of post-abortion trauma,” Theresa Burke said.

But the “mercy of God is undeniable,” Kominsky said.

Theresa’s husband and Rachel’s Vineyard co-founder Ken Burke said that too many times, people look at abortion as a contentious and political issue.

“I don’t see it that way anymore,” Ken Burke said. “It’s an issue of damaged relationships. In the beginning, you have the mother’s relationship with her developing child, and the way that she is intimately hurt by participating in the child’s death is that the relationship is broken.”

The same goes with the father, Ken Burke said.

“It’s a very deep wound to their fatherhood,” he said.

Kominsky and Searson said keeping both men and women together during the weekend helped them to see the perspective of others and aided in the healing process.

Kominsky says she believes there’s a “spiritual umbilical cord” between the child to the woman and that the child is praying for the mother and father to seek healing.

“Our children in Heaven are calling us to heal,” Kominsky said.

Patty said she now has a relationship with her child. She also now believes in the “spiritual umbilical cord” and that she will “hold her in the next world.”

Father John J. Chadwick, S.T.D., the Archdiocese’s Vicar General, has ministered at many retreats.

“A day doesn’t go by when I don’t remember the people I met on those retreats,” he said. “You just see Christ bringing his life to bear in all of them. And that is what a priestly life is all about.”

Each retreat is led by a team of trained volunteers who have all participated in a retreat, including lay ministers, an archdiocesan priest, and deacons.

The retreat also welcomes grandparents and siblings of aborted children to heal. The retreats are offered in English and Spanish. Those offered in Spanish are only one day.

“I am grateful to everyone involved with this ministry and look forward to working together in the continued mission of reconciliation,” Cardinal Tobin said.
Rachel’s Vineyard Ministries Offers Path to Reconciliation Following Abortion (cont’d)

Rachel’s Vineyard Ministries’ silver anniversary comes on the heel of the Dobbs v. Jackson’s Women’s Health Organization Supreme Court decision this summer. The June 24 decision overturned Roe v. Wade, removing the federal protection it provided since 1973 permitting abortion in all states. Following the June decision, many states have passed abortion bans.

The Society of Family Planning’s #WeCount reporting effort compared data from April to August 2022 and discovered that the estimated number of abortions decreased by 6%, from 85,020 abortions in April to 79,620 in August, according to a report from the society.

For more information on Rachel’s Vineyard, visit www.rachelsvineyard.org. To learn more about the Archdiocesan Respect Life Office, visit www.rcan.org/offices-and-ministries/respect-life.

To watch “The Story of Rachel’s Vineyard and the Archdiocese of Newark,” featuring Dr. Theresa and Kevin Burke, go to https://youtu.be/zFlY3Pe0uB4

**Original article posted by The Jersey Catholic (https://jerseycatholic.org/rachels-vineyard-ministries-offers-path-to-reconciliation-following-abortion?fbclid=IwAR1o5Zz4EC0DI-M9jQbq0t-KWBPVJGhoMDz+C9r8EOcmExqyzLMAtqXi6s)**
Rachel’s Vineyard Ministries Offers Path to Reconciliation Following Abortion (cont’d)

Rachel’s Vineyard Volunteers

Fr. Bill Sheridan and Director of the Respect Life Office/Mercy House, Cheryl Riley

Kevin Burke speaking at the 25th Anniversary event
Congratulations to the Pro Life Community in the Diocese of Dallas for it’s 75th Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat!
What an incredible legacy of service! And to add to that endeavor, they also mark the occasion of their 54th Spanish retreat, established to serve the needs of the Latino community.

That’s a total of 129 Rachel’s Vineyard Retreats in Dallas since it was started in 1999! So many lives have been transformed! I thank God for all those who have served so faithfully in Dallas from its inception with Barbara and Mark Hennes (RIP) who drove all the way from Dallas to Philadelphia to learn how to facilitate the retreat; succeeded by the capable Eileen Kuhlmann, who took over the reins of leadership. Under her steadfast guidance, the local ministry expanded with trainings and new initiatives including the programs for men.

For over two decades a remarkable line up of dedicated retreat team leaders and facilitators have been upheld by all the generous donors who have made these retreats possible. I thank God for all of you! I am keenly aware of the enormous love and tenderness you display to everyone who comes to Rachel’s Vineyard.

Blessings and heartfelt best wishes on all your ministries! I remain with you In the Vineyard of the Lord Jesus!

Dr. Theresa Burke
Founder, Rachel’s Vineyard Ministries
Snapshots of 2022

The brand new recording studio at The National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestchowa in Doylestown, PA.

Inaugural interview and taping using the media studio on November 28, 2022. Pictured left to right:
- Evelyn Walsh, Director of the Rachel’s Vineyard site in Doylestown, PA
- Dr. Theresa Burke, Founder, Rachel’s Vineyard
- Julianne Rowe, giving her testimony

Pre-taping session. **Foreground**: Father Timothy, studio technician for The Shrine (right); Jessica Akiya, Editing technician volunteer (left of Fr. Timothy).

**Background** (left to right): Evelyn Walsh, Director of the Rachel’s Vineyard site in Doylestown; Dr. Theresa Burke, Daniel Kearns, Broadcast engineer; Julianne Rowe, abortion survivor and Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat participant.
Encourage and Support Employees to Prevent the Moral Injury of Abortion

By Dr. Theresa Burke, PhD

In response to changes in abortion laws in Texas, Citi Bank is using their substantial resources to provide travel benefits and free hotel rooms for women to access abortion facilities.

It’s tragic that wealthy corporations led by women are choosing to invest their money to extinguish the lives of their employees’ babies. I’d rather see them pay for a reasonable maternity leave, family leave for when a child is sick, providing flex time in the work place, or shared job schedules for working moms and dads.

Better yet, perhaps take a miniscule chunk of their $2.291 trillion in assets and help remove some of the obstacles that force women to seek abortions in the first place ... like funding day care centers instead of sports arenas, or lowering the interest and mortgage rates for families with limited incomes.

The idea that abortion is a fundamental right, or is the only way that women can care for themselves, does not reflect the way that abortion is actually experienced. It is more inherently borne as a violation of oneself rather than a caring and nurturing of oneself. Women need nonviolent alternatives and assistance that does not assault their psychological, relational, and spiritual integrity.

Research shows that abortion is much more likely to damage a couple’s relationship than to enhance it, as they struggle with the grief and moral injuries related to abortion.

It is well documented that traumatic experiences fracture attachments and relationships with family and intimacy with loved ones. Abortion trauma shatters the belief that the self is fashioned and sustained in relation to others and can shatter the values of love, attachment, nurturing, and family that give meaning to life.

In my book Forbidden Grief, The Unspoken Pain of Abortion, I shared the story of Tasha. Everything after her abortion echoed the barren landscape their lives had become. Tasha recalled their bleak status:

“There was an eerie stillness to our relationship. A disconnection, a loss of passion, music, and everything else we once shared. It all resounded with the echo of my empty womb where nothing grew, my body where nothing hurt, my life where nothing lived ... it was the black hole. Our life went on in this vortex ...with no love. He did his thing to shame himself, and I retreated into my numbness and depression. It was a sentence of eternal abandonment.”
Encourage and Support Employees to Prevent the Moral Injury of Abortion (cont’d)

Citi-Bank’s reactive gesture is a self-serving false compassion that undermines the very fabric of necessary help women need in the workforce to nurture and sustain their families. Citi Bank demonstrates a complete failure to recognize the high cost of personal devastating consequences from abortion, which result in post traumatic stress disorders, anxiety, depression, drug overdoses, alcohol abuse, addictions, eating disorders, suicide attempts, sexual dysfunction, and parenting difficulties.

Tragically, the widespread ignorance and denial regarding abortions consequences will contribute to the problem of even more women being coerced into unwanted abortions. Especially if your own employer, spouse, boyfriend or boss mistakenly believe that abortion is a form of women’s empowerment, and they jump on a political agenda, they are more likely to mislead, manipulate, and pressure women into unwanted abortions. This is especially critical because 64% of American women who have had abortions felt pressure by others[i] -- including threats and violent physical assault.[ii]


Meeting the Need in Nigeria
Sr. Mary Rosanna Emenusiobi

Greetings.

I am gladly writing to inform you that we had our second Rachel post-abortion retreat from 18-20 March 2022. Twelve women and a man attended. It was a great experience, and the participants were very happy and grateful. For the first time, they opened up and shared their crippling and toxic post-abortion experiences. The Living Scripture exercises were really a healing balm. Our Team of six members comprising a clinical psychologist (and an abortion survivor), a priest, myself, a sister, and two other volunteers (post-abortive) women were able, through God's grace, to restore lives and experience complete healing. They were so grateful.

I thank God for you, dear Theresa. The Rachel Vineyard model you produced is superb. Once again, a team from the USA offered their financial support to help us defray the expenses. May God reward them abundantly.

We have scheduled another Retreat in June if we could find financial support.

Our women, especially, are dying in silence, guilt, and shame. They need liberation and assurance of God's unconditional forgiveness.

Yours sincerely in Jesus Christ, the Lord of Life,
Sr. Mary Rosanna Emenusiobi IHM
Meeting the Need in Nigeria (cont'd)

We are so excited for what God is doing for this site and are thankful for the perseverance Sr Mary Rosanna and her team have shown these last few years. She included pictures of her team (above), as well as pictures of their Memorial Mass offerings and their gifts to the participants (below).

If you feel called to contribute financially to this site please reach out to Sr Mary Rosanna at maryrosanna4life@gmail.com.
Rachel’s Vineyard in the Netherlands

In 2018, a group of three people started the preparations to introduce Rachel’s Vineyard in the Netherlands. The preparations consisted of translating the manual into the Dutch language, choosing and forming the team, practicing the sessions, and creating the website. We are grateful for the support of the team and Process Supervisors from the UK, Scotland, and Germany for their advice and exchange of experiences. We started holding weekends in September 2020 and have held five retreats at different locations in the Netherlands. With the help of God’s grace, we even continued during the corona crisis.

About 80% of our participants had a Catholic background and the remaining 20% were Protestant, not religious, or Muslim. The age of our participants was between 28 and 78 years. After every retreat we organize a reunion, and every year we also organize a Meeting Day for those who have attended past retreats. We advertise in Christian media, but word-of-mouth advertisement works best. A special form of advertising is speaking about Rachel’s Vineyard at church and distributing flyers afterwards. At Prolife gatherings (for the protection of life), we also have conversations with women who have had abortions. Some of these women have already experienced a Rachel’s Vineyard weekend. As a Process Leader, I follow training sessions via Zoom from Dr. Theresa Burke with others who are also involved from the U.S. and beyond. That is a great enrichment and necessary support. We also train our team by sharing the knowledge gained from these trainings and by inviting guests to speak with us. A very important point is the formation and maintenance of the team spirit. After the retreats we have meetings, we meet regularly for prayers and
Rachel’s Vineyard in the Netherlands (cont’d)

evaluations, and we close the liturgical year with an Advent get-together. We are happy to bring Rachel’s Vineyard to men and women and to assist them on the path of healing. Watching the transition they experience from the time they come on a Friday, to the time they leave on a Sunday, is something that fills us with gratitude. May the Holy Spirit continue protecting us. We are very happy with the support of Rachel’s Vineyard International and are grateful that we may be a part of it. May the Lord bless Rachel’s Vineyard worldwide and all the women and men God will call.

God bless!

Sr. Sterre
Facilitator, Rachel’s Vineyard Netherlands

Meet Sr. Sterre

My name is Sister Sterre. I’m named after “Maria Sterre der Zee” (in English, “Mary Star of the Sea”). She is the patron of our convent, which is also named “Sterre der Zee,” and of our Province. I live in the South of the Netherlands in Brunssum, in the province of Limburg.

Originally, I am from Rotterdam, in the west of the Netherlands. In 2005 I joined the Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matará. We are Catholic missionary sisters and have missions all over the world. People just call us “blue sisters” because of the color of our habit.

Since 2020, we have been giving Rachel’s Vineyard Retreats in the Netherlands. And by the providence of God, I have been asked to be the Site leader. Giving weekends together is something that just happened to come my way.

I experienced Rachel’s Vineyard as a special calling within my religious vocation. We learned from the England, Scotland, and Ireland teams through our contacts with their Site leaders. We have a great team with different qualities, and most of our team members have had an abortion experience or lost a baby. I am also grateful for Dr. Theresa Burke’s trainings and her answers to my questions during the course.

Besides Rachel’s Vineyard we also help women who are unexpectedly pregnant and have vulnerable children. Furthermore, I give catechesis to children at school and prepare them for the Sacraments. In my free time, I cycle, which is a typical Dutch thing to do, and I like to walk to see God’s creation.

We are very happy with the support of Rachel’s Vineyard International and to be a part of it. May the Lord bless Rachel’s Vineyard worldwide and all call the men and women God calls.
Rachel’s Vineyard Saskatchewan, Canada

Father Jeffrey Stephaniuk

“Joseph of Arimathea... went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.” Mark 15:43

Rachel’s Vineyard Saskatchewan held a retreat in April. As the priest on the team, a recurring theme for me throughout the weekend was the importance of one’s body. Explanations on grief work are given to the retreatants about breathing and oxygen, stretch breaks, and the need for water at those moments when an experience of grief wells up from within and is expressed.

An explanation of Adoration and the Holy Eucharist centres on the body of Christ “broken for you for the forgiveness of sins.” During the retreat there is a “remembrance” of what has been dis-membered. Before the Mass of Entrustment on Sunday, one phrase in the facilitator’s notes of explanation is that as “the body of Christ we come together to pray for peace and healing.”

I am conscious of my role representing the Church and also men, participating with a male voice literally and metaphorically in the Living Scripture exercises. Dr. Burke, too, explains the insights she has learned about the male body in the life of the retreatants, and her principle that the priest be at the retreat from start to completion: “Since so many have experienced abandonment by God as well as an abandonment by men who have dropped in and out of their lives, it can be a healing experience to have a priest remain with them as they progress through the work of the retreat.”

The human body can attract or repel us. The Good Thief on the cross is attracted to Jesus’s voice and strength in his humiliation when he hears, “Father forgive them, they know not what they do.” The other thief chooses to reject the experience of Jesus’ body in his life, even when Christ’s crucified body is so close in proximity to him. One of the reasons I’m a Christian is the principle of “repentance as a way of salvation,” as is prayed in the Divine Liturgy. Ironically, those who dismiss abortion as “no big deal” are also the same ones who make a very big deal of saying to the pre-born that they have committed a sin and a crime for which there is no forgiveness.

By contrast, through the work of the retreat, we “rejoice in the gift of forgiveness and reconciliation,” which
is extended to the post-abortive woman when her grief includes an inability to forgive herself. As Dr. Burke writes, “by dealing with her losses, she might begin to recognize her inherent worth as a human being, and her desire for real dignity and love.”

While the culture of Jesus’ era understood pregnancy as being “with child” immediately after conception, we are at risk of pitting the pre-born as an abstraction against the plight of the mother who is considered very tangible and concrete. As the Rachel’s Vineyard retreat is experienced from Friday to Sunday, the body of the lost child progresses from an abstraction to a very real and also beloved body. For some, there is the realization that what has been lost is really who has been lost: my child; my daughter; my son; my parent’s grandchild; a human, possessing the same dignity as every other human being created in the image and likeness of God, as we will hear on Sunday during the memorial service. Getting to that insight intellectually, emotionally, psychologically, and spiritually is a very real accomplishment, gift, and blessing from the Holy Spirit.

The Gospel reading for the Sunday of our retreat recalls the courage of Joseph of Arimathea to ask for permission to bury the body of Jesus. During our retreat, we ask the participants for permission to bury to body of their lost child or children, symbolically and in a meaningful ritual. We also ask the retreatants for permission to resuscitate their own bodies and return to life. A common comment by the end of the retreat is that “you look so much younger now than you did when you first arrived on Friday.”

The Lazarus exercise is the ritual, emotional, and spiritual work of acknowledging the parts of one’s body now dead from sin, and accepting the liberation and return to life in one’s offered by Christ. “Lazarus, come forth” represents this great hope. In the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom that is offered by me as a Ukrainian Catholic priest, the service ends with an exhortation, “Let us go forth in peace.” The Lazarus exercise is a symbolic exiting of one’s tomb, while going forth after the Mass of Entrustment means leaving both the womb of the retreat and the Divine Liturgy, born again as it were.

In this manner we participate in Christ’s words, “unless a man be born of water and Spirit…” During the weekend, the water has been tears, many tears of bitterness and then tears of joy and freedom in the realization that “our tears show the love we have for our children.” Without dismissing this experience as “no big deal,” we seek to reach that point in which the words of the angel to Mary Magdalene are said to us, “the period for mourning has been completed. Do not cry, but instead proclaim the resurrection...”
In October 2021, we had Fr. Jose Colon, General Vicar to the Bishop of Puerto Rico, serve as the weekend priest in our Spanish retreat. Fr. Jose immediately fell in love with El Viñedo de Raquel. On Friday night, he called his Bishop, Monsignor Luis Francisco Miranda of the Fajardo-Humacao Diocese, and explained our retreat to him. Bishop Miranda promptly said to Fr. Jose, “What are you waiting for? Bring the beautiful retreat to our Diocese.”

We quickly started to work and train a team: Patricia Ortiz and Karla Cintron (from our April retreat in Palm Beach, FL), Fr. Juan Figueroa, Fr. Yoel Flores, Janice Martinez, Mother Isabel, and Deacon Johnathon (who will be ordained a priest on December 3rd). Our first retreat was planned for November 11-13, 2022, with Monsignor Miranda and Fr. Jose presiding at Holy Mass.

We planned our trip to leave from Florida on Thursday, November 10, but it was canceled because of hurricane Nicole, which was predicted to pass through Palm Beach. So some members of my team had to text their bosses to see if we could leave Wednesday, and praise be to God, we did!

I feel overjoyed and so thankful to our Heavenly Father for allowing us to witness His Mercy and Healing once again. We had 11 participants, including one couple, one 79-year-old male, and one 77-year-old female—and we honored 26 babies. There was much pain, shame, anxiety, depression, and trauma throughout the weekend. However, we were able to see God’s Love & Mercy the entire time.

We also built a Memorial for the Unborn in Fajardo. It’s in the Diocese’s local store where a lot of people will be able to witness that life begins at conception. Bishop Miranda did the Blessing; he was so happy that our team was able to raise the money (we sold candles as a fundraiser, and an anonymous person helped, as well). Thank you, Lord Jesus, for always leading us!!
Rachel’s Vineyard in Puerto Rico (cont’d)

Memorial to the Unborn Children
"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb."
Psalm 139:13

Bishop Miranda blessing the Memorial to the Unborn

Bishop Miranda and Fr. Jose
Dear Friends of Life!

What a joy to enter this time of year, despite all the vagaries of the current context! And despite all the hardships we have gone through... We hope for each and every one of you that "everything that can go well is going well"... as our friend Thérèse Cornille liked to say. Is this vigil of the Feast of Christ the King of the Universe, which closes the liturgical year in wonderful hope, not a privileged moment to give thanks for so many graces received?

At every stage of this year we have been amazed witnesses of the Merciful Love of the Lord of Life lavished mightily during the various sessions. We are happy on the occasion of this great Feast to come and join you and share with you the next scheduled sessions of Rachel’s Vine and From Sorrow to Grace?

We are grateful to all those who have been ambassadors and/or witnesses, or witnesses of witnesses, to people in dire need of consolation, healing and liberation, who could only be reached by you. We like to recall what Mother Teresa said: "It is a drop in the immense sea of needs, but it would be missed by the sea!" Thank you for your loyalty. May you receive more blessings for you and all your own!

In order to grow in our communion, let us pray by entrusting one another to the Holy Trinity. We entrust a special intention, to those who know him, for Joel; and we invite you not to forget to associate in your prayer our foundress, Theresa Burke and for our dear Father Dominic Allain, from London, and the wonderful support provided by Fr. Frank Pavone, with Priests for Life, for their support of Rachel’s Vineyard International Office. In communion in trusting hope, with our gratitude and all our friendship received from God Good and Friend of men.

Monique Lecoufle
History of RV in France

by Monique Lecoufle

In 1986, Theresa Karminski-Burke, Ph.D., founded one of the first postabortion support therapeutic groups for women. In 1994, "Rachel's Vineyard – A Psychological and Spiritual Journey of Post Abortion Healing" was published for the first time. It was a unique therapeutic model offering a very concrete experience of post-abortion support for women grieving the loss of their child. In 1995, Theresa adapted and extended the program and gave it the form of a weekend retreat. People from various American states, eager for healing, came to experience this weekend. By word of mouth alone, due to its spectacular effectiveness, this form of weekend retreat is beginning to spread rapidly across the country.

In 2005, 10 years after the beginning of a long work to heal the trauma of her abortion, a French woman, Anne-Hélène, experienced healing to a degree of depth never known before, during her retreat the Vigne de Rachel in the United States. She agreed to translate the retirement manual with a Quebec couple, Jean-Marc and Diane Richard, to benefit her Quebec and French colleagues. In 2009, Bishop Brouwet, then Auxiliary Bishop of Nanterre, asked him to organize a first retreat at Rachel's vineyard in France on an experimental basis. Following this retreat, he gave his support to the project.

Since then, retreats have been organized in France by people who have been involved for many years in post-abortion healing. There are currently two teams: one at the Maison de la Trinité in Cerfroid; the other at Notre Dame de Fresneau, Marsanne.

Theresa Burke estimates that there are 300,000 volunteers serving those who suffer in silence. Rachel’s Vineyard is used by many health professionals, post-abortion recovery programs, pregnancy centers, pastoral and support teams.
Speaking Engagements, Trainings, Interviews, and Events:

January 5  Dr. Burke met with Sr. Dominika to help her with a research project that includes 14 students at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome.

January 15  Dr. Burke held a small virtual training for the Grief to Grace and Rachel’s Vineyard Team in Kelowna, Canada.


February 12  Dr. Burke held a small virtual training with the team leaders from Poland.

February 24-27  Dr. Burke held a Duty to Heal retreat in Cypress, TX.

February 28  Dr. Burke held an all-day virtual training for the Diocese of Rapid City (Part 4 of their 6-part training series).

March 2  Dr. Burke met with the team leader from London, England.

March 8  Dr. Burke was interviewed by Ann Virnig from the Avila Foundation.

March 13-18  Dr. Burke facilitated a Grief to Grace Retreat in Malvern, PA.

March 19  Dr. Burke met virtually with the California RV teams.

March 23  Dr. Burke was on “Just ask Janet with Janet Morana.

March 28  Dr. Burke gave a virtual presentation to the Mental Health Counseling Students at Franciscan University in Steubenville, OH.

April 1  Dr. Burke met with Tom Stevens from the Pro-Life Union.

April 11  Dr. Burke held a training for our new Rachel’s Vineyard retreat team in Guam.

April 23  Dr. Burke gave a Clinical Training in Spokane, WA.

May 17  Dr. Burke was interviewed by Sam Dorman from Live Action.

May 23  Dr. Burke held a virtual training for Spain retreat teams.

May 25  Dr. Burke held a virtual training for our Rachel’s Vineyard retreat team in Slovenia.

June 13  Dr. Burke held an all-day virtual training for the Diocese of Rapid City. (Part 5 of their 6-part training series).

June 27  Dr. Burke interviewed by Joseph Mancuso for a live podcast, Christian Panel Talk Show.

July 23  Dr. Burke held a Zoom training with the California RV teams.

July 27-Aug 5  Dr. Burke facilitated a Grief to Grace retreat in Los Angeles, CA.

August 16  Dr. Burke was on Dr. Carol Peters-Tanksley’s podcast to speak about healing after abortion.
Training and Education 2022 (cont'd)

You can listen here: www.drcarolministries.com/after-an-abortion-how-to-find-healing-and-restoration-after-an-abortion/?fbclid=IwAR3Vg4-pJ92DC15OmsyKwafK- rAJqLL1ImPYldnG87QvoPFLgBU3PW9N_R8.

August 19  Dr. Burke spoke at “Preserving Life & Healing from the Loss of Life,” a pro-life event hosted by Rachel’s Vineyard, in conjunction with the Living Scripture Institute and St. Mary Magdalen church in Media, PA.

August 23  Dr. Burke was interviewed by Melissa Corsi of “Currents” (Brooklyn-based Catholic TV program). Watch it here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=YeYJOzWzWU0.

August 24  Dr. Burke was interviewed by Sr. Timothy Marie for “In His Sign” network.

September 12  Dr. Burke and Kevin Burke were filmed as part of a special for the Newark Rachel’s Vineyard 25-Year Anniversary. Watch it here: https://youtu.be/zFlY3Pe0uB4.

September 13  Dr. Burke was a guest on “Just ask Janet” with Janet Morana.

September 21  Dr. Burke was a guest on the PA Pro-Life podcast, “Positively Pro-Life” Listen here: https://gallagherm.podbean.com/e/positively-pro-life-healing-the-wound-of-abortion.

October 17  Dr. Burke held an all-day virtual training sponsored by the Diocese of Rapid City. (Part 6 of their 6 part training series)

October 20  Dr. Burke spoke at the fall 2022 “Catholic Conversations” sponsored by the University of Delaware/St. Thomas More Oratory in Newark, DE.

October 30-Nov 4  Dr. Burke facilitated a Grief to Grace retreat in Malver, PA.

November 7  Dr. Burke spoke at “Night of Healing” at St. Simon and Jude parish in West Chester, PA.

November 14  Rachel’s Vineyard launched the first of our 4 part Virtual Training Conference, “Leading with Light.”

November 27  Dr. Burke held a Zoom training with the Polish RV & G2G teams.

November 28  Dr. Burke met with the Doylestown, PA, Rachel’s Vineyard team and was interviewed by Julianne Rowe with Evelyn Walsh.

December 6  Dr. Burke was honored at the “Undefeated Courage” Gala in Elizabethtown, PA.

December 12  Dr. Burke trained the new team in Barcelona, Spain, via Zoom.

December 13  Dr. Burke was a guest on “Cradle My Heart Radio” hosted by Kim Ketola.
Snapshots of 2022

Undefeated Courage Gala in Elizabethtown, PA, on December 6, at which Dr. Theresa Burke was honored. Pictured left to right: Leah Price—RV participant and speaker for the evening. Becky Biter, Undefeated Courage Co-founder; Deacon Shawn Biter, Undefeated Courage Co-founder; Dr. Anna Gomes, Pro-Life OB/GYN; Dr. Anna’s husband, Ted.

Dr. Anna’s, husband Ted; Gianna – 14-year old girl that was saved from being aborted; Dr. Anna; Becky Biter; Leah Price; Dr. Theresa Burke—honored at the Gala Event; adoptive parents of Gianna.

Thank you Sand Family for the gift of your family home for Rachel’s Vineyard Retreats!

House recently donated specifically for RV Retreats.

Dr. Burke with Pro-Life Advocate and singer, Jaime Thietten.
**Spanish Rachel’s Vineyard Catholic Retreat Manual**

by Dr. Theresa Burke, founder of Rachel’s Vineyard

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, 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.

**Rachel’s Vineyard Interdenominational Retreat Manual**

by Dr. Theresa Burke, founder of Rachel’s Vineyard

This 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.

**Rachel’s Vineyard Catholic Retreat Manual**

by Dr. Theresa Burke, founder of Rachel’s Vineyard

This manual is for Retreat Leaders to guide them through facilitating the psychological and spiritual journey of post abortion healing.
Forbidden Grief: the Unspoken Pain of Abortion by Dr. Theresa Burke, founder of Rachel’s Vineyard
Forbidden Grief is considered a definitive work on the study of traumatic reactions following abortion.

Contraception of Grief by Dr. Theresa Burke
This book 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.

Rivers of Blood/Oceans of Mercy, by Kevin Burke, LSW; Theresa Burke, Ph.D; and Rev Frank Pavone.
Rivers of Blood 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. After unveiling the deeper impact of Roe v 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.

Tears of the Fisherman, by Kevin Burke, LSW
Tears of the Fisherman 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 Manner berichten uber ihre Heilung nach Abtreibung
This is a collection of Rachel’s Vineyard and Silent No More Testimonies compiled in German and written by Fr Manfried. He is a team member of Rachel’s Vineyard.
Translations of Forbidden Grief

The Spanish version of *Forbidden Grief*
*Duelo Prohibido: El Dolor No Expresada Del Aborto*
by Dr. Theresa Burke

The Slovenian version of *Forbidden Grief*
by Dr. Theresa Burke

The Slovakian version of *Forbidden Grief*
by Dr. Theresa Burke

The Russian version of *Forbidden Grief*
by Dr. Theresa Burke
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.

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.

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 our office at 610-354-0555 or visit www.prolifeproducts.org/healing
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 a person can contact us: email, ask the experts, online forums, and phone numbers for our hotline and each of our sites. People 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 that helps explain post-abortion trauma and the mission of Rachel's Vineyard. Visit our website at www.rachelsvineyard.org.

Newsletter: Vine & Branches
Our newsletter, Vine & Branches, goes out the first week of each month. It highlights news from our international office and around the vineyard; honors received by our volunteers; articles written about post-abortion trauma, healing, or Rachel's Vineyard; book reviews; and any other information or resources that are useful for people involved with post-abortion or pro-life ministry. We send it out via email and also post it on our website. All our issues, new or old, are available in an archive on our website. Read our newsletters at www.rachelsvineyard.org/resources/vine-branches.aspx.

YouTube Channel
We post videos to our Rachel’s Vineyard Channel on YouTube and are reaching the millions of people who cruise YouTube each day. Our videos have inspirational and educational messages about abortion trauma and healing. They’re a wonderful way to equip people with resources they can quickly share with friends and family in need of healing. The videos feature Kevin and Theresa Burke, founders of Rachel's Vineyard, Fr. Frank Pavone, Pastoral Director for Rachel’s Vineyard, retreat sites, and supporters of our ministry. Watch our videos at www.youtube.com/rachelsvineyard.
Social Media

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 thousands of fans with new people joining everyday! In 2022, we’ve seen a reach increase of over 68%, and a 49% increase of visits to our page. Facebook is a great way to promote upcoming retreats, reach people with our newsletter, promote our training events and conferences, and share articles that support the mission and need of Rachel’s Vineyard. It also gives people a chance to learn more about our ministry and meet others who are already involved. Visit our fan page at www.facebook.com/rachelsvineyard.

Twitter
We are excited to be a member of the Twitter community. Through social media sites like this, we’ve expanded our message to communicate with people in a new and exciting way—sharing posts, graphics, and encouraging quotes that inspire our audience. In the past year, our impressions have increased 80%. Visit our Twitter page at www.twitter.com/rvhealing.

Instagram
We are also a part of the Instagram community, sharing beautiful messages of hope, love, support, and healing. Instagram is a wide-reaching way to share our message of healing with the world. Our Instagram profile visits have increased over 345% this past year. Visit our Instagram page at www.instagram.com/rvhealing.