Rachel’s Vineyard
2021
A Year in Review

Rachel's Vineyard
A Ministry of Priests for Life
808 N. Henderson Road
Suite 210
King of Prussia, PA 19406
610-354-0555
www.RachelsVineyard.org
1-877-H O PE -4-M E
Dear Friends,

I want to share what we have witnessed in 36 years of growing this ministry throughout the world.

God is alive! He brings people out of death! He brings us back to LIFE!

God then blesses us, fills us with Spirit, and ignites our souls with passion to spread the good news!

Our response to the need of global mourning caused by abortion has changed lives all over the world:

“Rachel’s Vineyard literally saved my life!”

“I struggled with thoughts of suicide and extreme self-destruction for years until I finally found Rachel’s Vineyard.”

“I will devote the rest of my life to sharing what God has done for me in Rachel’s Vineyard.”

“My faith is restored… my broken heart now beats with passion for others who have suffered like me.”

“I heard God whisper to me clearly… You can bring Rachel’s Vineyard to your country – I will help you…. There are thousands here who are lost in the darkness who yearn to feel my love and know that I am HERE.”

"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light."

(Ephesians 5:8)

What does it mean to walk as a child of the light as humanity struggles in crisis?

It is in the darkest times that God’s light shines the brightest! When we are immersed in the healing work of God, we are engaged in the work of salvation. It’s no secret that reconciliation and peace are desperately needed in our world today!

We continue to witness an unraveling of culture, radical shifts in morality, and ongoing public scandals and corruption in church and government institutions.

But the Lord is redeeming his people. Their lives are changed forever… not just here as “lights in the darkness” – but onto eternity.

But here is what I want you to know: Rachel’s Vineyard is taking steps of faith like we’ve never taken before! We are committed to doubling essential areas of ministry over the next two years. Why? Because we know that God continues to call us to be a voice of HOPE and REDEMPTION to the world.

And how do we know this? Because in all these years, God has literally “raised up an army!”
In spite of difficult times and the economic hardships of a worldwide pandemic, our ministry has continued to grow and its fruitfulness continues in miraculous and dramatic ways! In fact, perhaps because of the vulnerability and anxiety of the human heart in these times of loss and grief, many people have come forward after decades of silence and secrets to reconcile the loss of children to abortion. Many people have also requested our help with other problems using our powerful retreat exercises and healing rituals.

So it’s been a hopeful year of reopening ministries and starting new ones as we continue to train new teams. Using Zoom meetings for blessed connection, training and encouragement. Indeed, these are interesting times with a need more than ever, to experience God in the midst of upheaval and uncertainty.

The vision for us now is to continue as a movement of healing as we help people throughout the world to live out their personal faith in ways that allow God to transform families, churches, and communities with healing and peace. We have been uniquely called to restore the gift of human dignity within wounds that need healing and transformation.

Rachel’s Vineyard is an international organization dedicated to a vision of a world free of abortion grief and child abuse. We carry out our mission through our retreats and support group healing models; trauma education; facilitator training and advocacy. We conduct all our work with an underlying spirit of collaboration, community, and compassionate support for individuals and families.

Rachel’s Vineyard promotes a holistic approach to healing and wellness for both survivors and the professionals and retreat teams who support them. Our track record is anchored in the possibility to not only overcome trauma, but also to thrive and reclaim joy. Hundreds of our leaders have become incredible well-springs of healing for others.

Through our programs, we seek to increase society’s understanding of the effects of trauma and expand the use of spiritually and psychologically integrated, trauma-informed retreats. Many of our Rachel’s Vineyard leaders have been expanding their ministries to include “Grief to Grace – healing the wounds of abuse” a week long program to address sexual abuse, emotional and physical abuse, neglect as well as spiritual abuse. We are ministering to church leadership, priests and nuns who have suffered many forms of abuse as well as hundreds of victims of clergy abuse.

This past summer, I had the privilege of launching a new retreat, “Duty To Heal – Finding Peace for a Soldier’s Heart” which addresses the moral injury of combat veterans. Who is leading up these ministries? Post aborted men and women who have seen the power of God manifested in powerful Living Scriptures and a unique way that brings Jesus and his teachings alive in souls that long to comprehend God’s great love and mercy.

And so the scriptures are continually lived out and fulfilled: “I tell you, her sins—and they are many—have been forgiven, so she has shown much love. But a person who is forgiven little shows only little love.” Luke 7:47.

This is what we witness— the power of a love so great that the Lord has “raised an army” to love and to heal. Faith, hope and a tender charity compels us to open our hearts wider, to support other forms of grief which distort the human heart, and have the power to destroy our humanity.

Rachel’s Vineyard continues to bring brave new voices with personal testimonies from the Silent No More
Note from the Founder

Awareness Campaign co-founded by Janet Morana at Priests for Life. I could not ask for more from Father Frank Pavone and the staff at Priests for Life who work tirelessly on behalf of life. We have been blessed by our 18 year partnership helping Rachel’s Vineyard Ministries flourish.

I’m especially grateful to our small staff (Katie D’Annunzio, Lairen Vogan, Kate O’Donnell) who keep the grapes growing at our international office with a continual stream of requests, events and new ideas for training.

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 pro-life groups and many church ministry groups; and all those who share in our mission.

Thank you for your friendship and all that you have allowed God to do through your generous service and LOVE!

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light!

Blessings and Peace,

[Signature]

Dr. Theresa Burke
Founder, Rachel’s Vineyard Ministries

Hurt people - hurt people. That's how pain patterns gets passed on, generation after generation, after generation. Break the chain today. Meet anger with sympathy, contempt with compassion, cruelty with kindness. Greet grimaces with smiles. forgive and forget about finding fault. Love is the weapon of the future.
Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As the year 2021 has drawn to a close, abortion has been in the news more than usual, given the dramatic ways in which the issue has been in the US Supreme Court, and will continue to be in the coming months.

We who are involved in the work of healing the wounds of abortion know what this means and will continue to mean for the coming months. Thanks to God and to all of you, we are ready to minister to the many people whose consciences will be stirred and who have been coming and will yet come to find reconciliation and healing!

How blessed we are, all together, to provide the world’s largest ministry of healing after abortion!

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 it is always with great gratitude to the Lord and legitimate pride that I’m able to tell people that I serve as the Pastoral Director of a ministry so widely known for its effective compassion.

To work, furthermore, so closely with Theresa and Kevin Burke, Katie and the whole RV national team is such a tremendous blessing!

So many in the Church—as individuals and institutions—partner with Rachel’s Vineyard, and we treasure that deeply. At the same time, so many in the Church are still afraid and uncomfortable about dealing with the wounds of abortion. And that is where Rachel’s Vineyard is needed more than ever. We need to show the way to our brothers and sisters who do indeed have compassion for the wounded, but do not adequately understand how deep the abortion wound is, or are afraid and uncertain as to how to even raise the topic.

The Rachel’s Vineyard teams around the world not only meet this need but, by our witness and by our training (both formal and informal), we inspire the confidence that our fellow believers need to address the wounds of abortion explicitly and effectively.

This is one of the reasons that the partnership between Rachel’s Vineyard and Priests for Life is so natural and appropriate. Our Priests for Life ministry, since 1991, has answered the call to increase the confidence of God’s people and ministers to face the evil of abortion and deal with its consequences, both for the children and everyone else. Abortion destroys everything in its path. It does not “sometimes” wound; it always wounds those it does not kill altogether.

The task of addressing that devastation is not and never has been easy. But it has never been more necessary, and it could not be more integral to the work of the Church. The Gospel is the Gospel of Life and the Gospel of Mercy. These are all dimensions of the one, indivisible Gospel of Christ. And when Rachel’s Vineyard succeeds in bringing to the light of conscience the evil of abortion, the wounds it inflicts, and the path to healing, it also makes the ministers of the Gospel more effective in all they do. It makes the people of God more compassionate both to those who have participated in abortion and those who have any other kind of wound.

In short, we can say that Rachel’s Vineyard is a key to the renewal of the whole Church, to the progress of
the New Evangelization, to the effective pastoral leadership of the clergy, and to the success of the pro-life movement.

We are entering a particularly historic phase of that movement. We could be only months away from the reversal of Roe vs. Wade. And as I have always said, even if all the abortions stopped tomorrow, the work of healing will only have begun. That is why, as you read and share the pages of this report, you should be filled with gratitude at what has been accomplished. Please study this report and share it eagerly with others who appreciate this work but may not know that much about it.

And as abortion gains more and more attention in the coming months, let’s redouble our conviction of how much Rachel’s Vineyard is needed, and our determination to be agents of its continued growth and success in the Lord.

Sincerely,

Fr. Frank Pavone
Pastoral Director, Rachel’s Vineyard Ministries
National Director, Priests for Life
Since our inception, our healing retreats have:

Served over 334,000 individuals, couples and Families;

Trained more than 158,000 healing professionals;

Educated more than 13,500 clergy;

Organized more than 545 educational seminars for mental health professionals;

Offered more than 17,050 retreats;

Offered more than 3,000 support group models;

Connected millions of visitors to our help resources;

Disseminated 502,000 books and videos;

Empowered 502,000 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 52,500 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 2021

NEW INTERNATIONAL SITES
Nigeria
Moscow, Russia
Maison Saint Joseph, France
Gdansk, Poland
Poznan, Poland

NEW NATIONAL SITES
Orlando, Florida
(English & Spanish)
Long Island/ Huntington, NY
(English & Spanish)
Spring Hill, T N
Scranton/ Nanticoke, PA

“For the first time in my life I was open to God’s healing, love and forgiveness. The Rachel’s Vineyard retreat gave me new life!”

RACHELSVINEYARD.ORG
1.877.HOPE.4.ME
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 in Development

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

Contact our Rachel’s Vineyard International Office at: 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 6 months 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.

INTERNATIONAL SITES
Guam
Vancouver Island, Canada
Poznan, Poland
Wroclaw, Poland
Gibraltar

NATIONAL SITES
Spring Hill, TN
Cincinnati, OH
Jackson, MS
Charlestown, W V
Milwaukee, WI
Kalamazoo, MI
Flint, MI
Snapshots of 2021

Left: Theresa with friends of Rachel’s Vineyard from Steubenville, OH

Right: Theresa with the Rachel’s Vineyard team from Phoenix, AZ

Left: Theresa and the Texas Rachel’s Vineyard team

Right: Theresa and Mary Lee Mason from New Heart of Texas, who was able to purchase a retreat house for New Heart of Texas to host Rachel’s Vineyard, Grief to Grace, and Duty to Heal retreats.
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<th>National Rachel’s Vineyard Sites</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cullman, AL</td>
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<td>Mesa/ Phoenix, AZ</td>
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<td>Phoenix, AZ (Español)</td>
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<td>Los Angeles, CA (Español)</td>
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<td>Oakland/ East Bay, CA</td>
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<td>Oakland/ East Bay, CA (Español)</td>
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<td>Sacramento, CA *</td>
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<td>Sacramento, CA (Interdenom)</td>
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<td>San Bernardino, CA *</td>
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<td>San Francisco Bay Area, CA (Interdenom)</td>
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<td>San Jose/ Great South Bay, CA (Interdenom)</td>
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<td>Georgetown, DE (Interdenom)</td>
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<td>Doral, FL (Español)</td>
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<td>Jacksonville/ St. Augustine, FL</td>
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<td>Atlanta, GA</td>
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<td>Atlanta, GA (Interdenom)</td>
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<td>Atlanta, GA (for Military &amp; Veterans)</td>
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<td>Columbus, GA (Interdenom)</td>
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<td>Savannah/ Augusta, GA</td>
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<td>Dubuque, IA</td>
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<td>Sioux City, IA</td>
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<td>Boise, ID</td>
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*Holds English & Spanish Retreats
International Rachel’s Vineyard Sites

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

**Asia:**
- Hong Kong
- Beirut, Lebanon
- Penang, Malaysia
- Moscow, Russia
- Vladivostok, Russia
- Incheon City, South Korea
- Ba-Li, New Taipei City, Taiwan
- Tai-Shan, New Taipei City, Taiwan
- Taipei, Taiwan
- Vladivostok, Russia

**Europe:**
- Vienna, Austria
- Birmingham, England
- Leeds, England
- Stroud, Gloucestershire, England
- Tórshavn, Faroe Islands
- Maisons de la Trinité, France
- Mère de l’Isicorode, IDF, France
- Hildesheim, Germany
- Cork, Ireland
- Bologna, Italy
- Vilnius, Lithuania
- Belfast, Northern Ireland
- Ghent, Belgium
- Gdansk, Poland
- Piwniczna Zdroj, Poland
- Poznan, Poland
- Szczecin, Poland
- Warsaw, Poland
- Lisbon, Portugal
- Cluj-Napoca, Romania
- Glasgow, Scotland
- Glasgow, Scotland (Interdenom)

**Central America:**
- Monción, Dominican Republic
- Santiago, Dominican Republic
- San Salvador, El Salvador
- Lake Atitlan Region, Guatemala
- Catedral, Jutiapa, Olancho, Honduras
- Tegucigalpa, Honduras
- Kingston, Jamaica
- Managua, Nicaragua
- N. Atalaia, Nicaragua

**South America:**
- Bahía Blanca, Argentina
- Buenos Aires, Argentina
- Mendoza, Argentina
- Tucumán, Argentina
- Iquique, Chile
- Bogotá, Colombia
- Bogotá Minuto de Dios, Colombia
- Cajica, Colombia
- Cali, Colombia
- Cartagena, Colombia
- Duitama-Boyaca, Colombia
- M. edellin, Colombia
- Pereira, Colombia
- Quito, Pichincha, Ecuador
- Asunción, Paraguay
- Lurin, Peru
- M. iwaques, Peru
- Caroni, Trinidad
- Montevideo, Uruguay

**North America:**
- 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)

**New Zealand:**
- Wellington, New Zealand

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

**By Continent:**
- By Continent
- **Europe:**
  - Vienna, Austria
  - Birmingham, England
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- Sherbrooke, Canada
- Thunder Bay, ON, Canada
- Vancouver, BC, Canada
- Winnipeg MB, Canada (Interdenom)
- Yellownknife, NT, Canada
- Culliacán, Mexico
- Hermosillo Sonora, Mexico
- Irapuato, Mexico
- Mexico City, Mexico
- Monterrey, Nuevo León, Mexico
- Nogales, Mexico
- Tijuana, Mexico
- Zapopan Jalisco (Cerca de Guadalajara), Mexico
- Provincia Colon, Panama
- San Juan, Puerto Rico

**New Zealand:**
- Wellington, New Zealand

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

**International Rachel’s Vineyard Sites**

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[Map of the world showing Rachel’s Vineyard Sites]
Snapshots of 2021

Left: Theresa with students at the Catholic Medical Association Boot Camp in Mundelein, IL

Left: We celebrate Fr. Jay Biber, who has been with Rachel’s Vineyard since the first retreat in Richmond, VA three decades ago and is still going strong!!

Right: Theresa and Bernhard Streißelberger from Austria, who has been helping on Rachel’s Vineyard in Vienna

Left: Theresa with students at the Catholic Medical Association Boot Camp in Mundelein, IL
Paschal Mystery is a term that describes the redemptive work of Christ, especially the events of the Last Supper, the suffering and death of Jesus, reaching their climax on Easter Sunday. That same paschal mystery unfolds in the life of every believing Christian.

Here is the amazing story of how this mystery was manifest in the life of a prisoner at a Florida maximum security prison.

Earl J. Hinson:

“I was age 17, sitting at home on a weekday afternoon when the phone call came. It was Jessica...she told me she was pregnant. Instantly the thought that abortion is wrong flashed through my mind.

I told her we could take care of the child. She told me that she did not want to carry the child and that she needed $400 to have the abortion. I was going to argue further, but her boyfriend then got on the phone.

It is difficult to put into words the rage I felt flare up when I heard her new boyfriend on the phone. It felt like an ambush. I told them that I did not have the money. As they continued to push, I pushed back and told them that it was not my problem but theirs.

After the abortion, anger became my constant companion. I tried to continue with schooling, but it did not take long for me to lose track. Violent thoughts lived in my mind day and night. I took unnecessary risks, such as racing, lashing out and fighting others. Danger and risk became synonymous with a good time. Adrenaline and caffeine became my bread and water.

Before long, I was one person during the day with certain acquaintances and friends, and a completely different person at night and with different acquaintances. My academic plans in college — to complete a pre-med program and obtain a degree in psychiatry — finally collapsed under the stress of my double life. Long-term goals became obsolete, and I lived my life day-to-day. Relationships began to suffer.
One of the men I spent time with on my ludicrous escapades came to me with another wild idea. The plan was criminal in the extreme. Finally, the fruit of passive-participation in the killing of my child ripened within me. I participated in the murder and robbery of a man, the wounding of another, and the near death of a young woman at the scene of the crime.

It did not take long for the police to arrest me. While sitting in the county jail a grace-filled moment occurred. I realized that I had hit rock bottom. But remorse for my crimes and sins did not flood me, though I did recognize just how insane my behavior was.

When sent to prison, I continued to look at the bizarre split in my life and the chasm that existed in my lifestyles. This, and God’s grace, brought me back to His Church, and I began to recognize how my sinful actions created this split personality.

In walking with Jesus through my memories and past actions, I began to understand remorse, guilt, and healthy shame. However, no matter how much I prayed, no matter how much I fasted, and no matter how much I sacrificed, I suffered the demons of self-doubt and pride.

Finally, the Holy Spirit brought the phone call from Jessica to mind. I became overwhelmed with the sense that this wound was the source of my suffering and struggle.

At weekly services the Catholic chaplain polled 100 inmates to see how many men had gone through an abortion experience.

A surprise came when I learned that more than 90% of the men around me were involved in an abortion decision. Later, the chaplain announced that the Rachel’s Vineyard program was coming to our institution to help heal the wound of the abortion.

The seminar answered my deepest prayers. It showed me how my self-image and core beliefs were warped by the abortion, my self-justifications, and my denial. I came to recognize that the need to overachieve, my obsession with detail, my propensity for anger and violence, and even my hunger for adrenaline excitement were rooted in my corrupted idea of masculinity.

My consent in the abortion of my daughter was a violation of my natural purpose to protect and provide for my offspring. This denial was forcing me to overcompensate for the damage I caused to my natural masculine identity. The problem was that this denial also meant that I was denying everything that made me human.

It was a suffering joy when I came to know my heavenly daughter, Angela Grace. I had been unaware of just how callous and unfeeling I was, but through the healing received by God in the Rachel’s Vineyard seminar, it allowed me to feel.

I came to know myself, my wrongs, and experience a remorse that is difficult to express adequately — painful to feel yet liberating to know. Rachel’s Vineyard is the grace that God ordained for my healing, and the healing of so many others.

Though I justly remain in prison for my crimes, Rachel’s Vineyard has been the vessel of grace by which God has made me free. It is in this freedom that I will now be … Silent No More.”

A devout grandmother opens the door to grace

One of the victim’s grandmothers played an important role in Hinson’s conversion and healing. From the Florida Catholic.
“One of the greatest examples of faith that Hinson ever witnessed came from a member of his victim’s family — the grandmother of Eduardo Natal, who Hinson killed.

During the trial, prosecutors approached Natal’s family to tell them they wished to seek the death penalty in Hinson’s case. But Natal’s grandmother, the family matriarch, said the family was Catholic and didn’t believe in capital punishment. As a result, Hinson received life in prison without parole instead of death.

‘It was a very tangible expression of faith on her part and it really rocked my world,” Hinson said. “In a sense of desperation, I was getting back into my faith and then she does that, and all the sudden all that matters is living my life like that.’

In a further testament to the mercy, and saving power of God, in November 2018, the Diocese of Palm Beach named Earl Hinson Respect Life Person of the Year for his work in completing certification as a Rachel’s Vineyard facilitator. Hinson has led many retreats for fellow inmates who lost a child, or children, to abortion.

Don Kazimir is the director of respect life for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Palm Beach. Kazimir shared:

“Working in the midst of great darkness, our recipient has been a beacon of hope and a light of Christ. He has truly been a missionary to the many lost souls in the prison. He is known as the ‘go-to guy’ if you want to learn about God.”

Nothing is impossible with God

While Hinson has experienced a miraculous manifestation of God’s grace and mercy, each day he remembers, and prays for the victims, and their families, who suffer because of his crimes:

“To this day there’s been a great awareness for the loss I have caused, for the pain I have caused. I make it part of my prayer life. I walk through those memories with Jesus, and I ask Jesus to touch them with healing, to help them…I can still choose to grow closer to Jesus so that his grace can take care of them. As long as I continue to convert to the Lord and offer them up in prayer, nothing is impossible with Him.
Rachel’s Vineyard Twin Cities: Offering a Chance to Heal from the Despair of Abortion

By Debbie Musser

Maggie Larson was not a young teen when she found herself in an unwanted pregnancy in 1988.
“I was 27 years old and working as a psychotherapist,” Larson said. “I had been in a relationship for about two years and was taking the birth control pill; yet, I became pregnant.”

When she revealed this to her boyfriend, he was not at all pleased. He insisted that he was not ready to be a father and that abortion was the only answer.

“I am not placing blame on him; I was so full of fear and he was terrified, too,” she said.

Larson, 59, was raised Catholic, attending Annunciation School in Minneapolis and the Academy of Holy Angels in Richfield. She said she was fortunate to have a group of close girlfriends from those Catholic school years.

“I consider them family and love them all, but I did not share (the news of) my pregnancy at the time,” Larson said. “I was ashamed . . . so ashamed. And that’s why I didn’t go to my parents.

“Looking back now, I had it all wrong,” she said. “I think my friends and family would have helped me. But at the time, I had a boyfriend who didn’t want to help, so I thought I had no road out.”

A few weeks later, Larson, convinced she could not handle raising a child on her own and wanting to please her boyfriend, found herself in a St. Louis Park women’s clinic, seeking an abortion.

“I called in sick from work, walked in and recall all these women sitting there with dead looks on their faces,” she said. “And the silence was deafening.”

Fast forward five years to 1993: Larson went on to marry. After seven years of marriage and one son, the couple divorced.

“I would say that the abortion was ultimately a major factor in the divorce; I was afraid of being honest about anything, I was angry and depressed, and I was sure I was condemned to hell for having an abortion,” Larson said.

Today, Larson, an active member of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Isanti, attends a prayer group, a Bible study and weekly adoration hour. She remarried in 2008 and works with her husband in a couple of family businesses.

“I met my husband in 2005 but kept the abortion secret for a long time; I was convinced he wouldn’t want me if he knew,” Larson said. “I finally told him at the kitchen table one day in a flood of tears and sorrow, and
to my astonishment, he held me and consoled me.”

Larson began searching for help to heal from her abortion. She came upon an ad for a Rachel’s Vineyard retreat in February 2015 and asked her husband to accompany her. He agreed.

“I have such deep regret, sorrow and despair about my abortion; it’s so isolating,” Larson said. “Rachel’s Vineyard helped me see that Jesus never abandoned me, and that while abortion is a grave sin, it’s not an un-forgivable sin.”

Rachel’s Vineyard Twin Cities offers weekend healing retreats for mothers, fathers, grandparents and anyone struggling with abortion loss. Under the guidance of trained volunteers, using Scripture, meditations, group discussion, the sacraments and a memorial service and Mass to honor the children lost, the retreats allow participants to deeply explore their trauma, guilt and grief in a safe, confidential environment.

Rachel’s Vineyard Ministries is an international organization founded in 1995. “Most of our participants are women in their 40s and 50s; about 12% are men and 84% are Catholic,” said Nancy Blom, 58, executive director of Rachel’s Vineyard Twin Cities. “It’s an average of 24 years from the time of their abortion to when they attend their retreat.”

The retreat was life-changing for Larson. “My soul experienced such a release over the course of the retreat,” she said. “God led me there; he knew what I needed to come out of the prison I had been in for years. And now I have returned to my beautiful Catholic faith, with a very supportive community who reminds me to pray, seek God and listen to him.”

**IMPORTANT HELP**

Nancy Blom, executive director of Rachel’s Vineyard Twin Cities, said half of the local organization’s budget is from the Catholic Services Appeal Foundation. The funds are used for retreats and expanding its reach.

“Another very important aspect is that the Catholic Services Appeal sends a powerful message to our wounded body of Christ that the Church cares about them,” Blom said. “With healing, many of our participants become vibrant and active members of their churches, no longer feeling separated and unworthy.”

Parishes also can benefit from the appeal, said Jennifer Beaudry, CSAF executive director.

“When parishes go above their goal or even give more than last year, they receive parish sharing dollars to use wherever they need it most,” Beaudry said. “We were grateful to be able to share approximately 11%, or $1,100,000, with parishes in 2020.”

She said donors can give online, at their parish or by mail.

“We’re using a variety of tools,” Beaudry said, “so that parishes will have the flexibility to reach their parishioners however works best, and additionally this year, parishes will find an extensive tool kit on our website to help spread the word through digital and social channels.”

To learn more about the CSAF and to donate, visit csafspm.org.

**Article originally posted by The Catholic Spirit, and can be found here.**
Right: Fr. Tomaz from Slovenia and his Rachel’s Vineyard retreat team

Left: Theresa and Bishop Ronald W. Gainer, Bishop of Harrisburg, PA, Dr Theresa Burke gave a keynote address for the Undefeated Courage Gala to support their work with Rachel’s Vineyard and their pro-life sidewalk counseling and their Mobile ultrasound truck.

Right: Theresa and Christine Cunningham. Christine shared her testimony and healing experience of Rachel’s Vineyard at the Undefeated Courage Gala.
NEW BEGINNINGS IN NIGERIA

We first met Sr. Mary Rosanna Emenusiobi IHM in 2017 when she came to the States to work on building a pro-life initiative in Nigeria. Since then, she and others on her team have been working tirelessly to raise the funds needed to host their first retreat. Knowing the passion Sr Mary Rosanna had for those suffering after an abortion, we were not surprised to receive the following message from her letting us know that indeed their work over the years had not been in vain and they were able to bring healing to many men and women in Nigeria.

Letter from Sr Mary Rosanna:

“I am happy to inform you that at last, we were able to conduct the Rachel Wholeness and Hope Weekend Healing Retreat for men and women who regret their abortions. This wonderful experience happened in September this year, 2021. Seven women and one man attended. It was, indeed, a healing experience. Our hearts melted as the participants told their stories of regrets and trauma. Our Team was comprised of a psychologist, a priest, myself, and a guidance counselor.

This program was conducted for the first time in Nigeria. The participants could not believe they were not abandoned by the Church to suffer from their wounds alone. They could not believe that they were still worthy of God's forgiveness. In fact, their doubts as to the reason for the Retreat cleared as soon as they entered the retreat venue. They were ever grateful. About 35 persons applied initially for the Retreat but on account of doubts and the token to be paid, only 8 persons attended. Their doubts stemmed from the fact they have never heard that those suffering the pains of abortion could be helped. They thought of themselves as worthless and terrible individuals - dying silently of guilt, fear, and shame. But they went home happy, restored, and healed. We could observe the effects of these feelings in them.

I am very grateful to Dr. Theresa Burke, for creating this restoration and healing program and to the Rachel Vineyard team in Minnesota for training me on abortion healing retreat in 2017 when I visited America. They donated $500 to us last year. We could not organize it last year because of a lack of funds. The donation was part of the funds that made the program possible this year. It cost us $1,600 (while the participants paid a token of just $10). We will organize it again if we could find sponsors. I am sure more people will attend since those who have experienced the program promised to help to spread it.

Once again, thank you for your generosity and for what you do for women who are traumatized.

God's blessings. We continue to hand over ourselves to God for healing and restoration.

Yours sincerely in Jesus Christ,
Sr. Mary Rosanna Emenusiobi IHM
Secretary
Family and Human Life Unit
Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria”
New and Developing sites in Poland!

Our presence in Poland over the last few years has been growing! This year was no different, as Rachel’s Vineyard began running retreats in Wroclaw and Poznan, bringing us to a total of 6 retreat sites across Poland!! We’re so grateful to our wonderful teams, who continue to run healing retreats and assist in the spread of our ministry across their beautiful country.

Currently we have retreat sites in:
- Gdansk
- Piwniczna Zdroj
- Poznan
- Szczecin
- Warsaw
- Wroclaw
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.

Dr. Theresa Burke and Kevin Burke, LSW were interviewed multiple times by Fr. Frank Pavone, Janet Morana, Bryan Kemper and Evangelist Alveda King on EndAbortion.TV, the broadcast channel of Priests for Life. Here are the links to some of those interviews:

Prolife Is the New Punk Rock: I Mourn My Aborted Sibling - YouTube
Interview with Bryan Kemper

The best of Just Ask Janet LIVE with Special Guest Kevin Burke of Rachel's Vineyard - YouTube

Just Ask Janet with Janet Morana: Healing the Wounds of Sexual Abuse - YouTube
Featuring Dr. Theresa Burke

Just Ask Janet LIVE!! Healing A Father’s Heart with Special Guest Kevin Burke - YouTube

Just Ask Janet How Can Men Find Healing After An Abortion Guest Kevin Burke - YouTube

Just Ask Janet: Finding Healing After Abortion Guest: Dr Theresa Burke, founder Rachel's Vineyard - YouTube

Prolife Praise with Alveda King Today' Guest Theresa Burke - YouTube

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

10/ 5 – Lifesite News – Congresswoman’s abortion story points to need for deeper healing

6/ 17 – Lifesite News – Essential role of fatherhood in salvation history

4/ 19 – Catholic Online – with Joan Battista, Spiritual fatherhood

3/ 29 – Catholic Online – what science tells us about the mother-child bond

3/ 2 – Catholic Online – hidden abortion pain of grandparents

2/ 28—Men, Abortion & Grace | Impactus | Promise Keepers Canada

Turn to Christ to find healing, hope | Tri-City Herald

Rachel’s Vineyard Twin Cities 20th Anniversary Mass: Bishop Cozzens' Homily - YouTube
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: Mundelein, IL; Phoenix, AZ; Houston, TX; Harrisburg, PA; Malvern, PA; Exton, PA;

Speaking and Special Events:

January 11 - **Dr. Theresa Burke** met with the Rachel's Vineyard team coordinator from France.
January 28 - **Dr. Theresa Burke** met with the Rachel's Vineyard Teams from Poland.
February 22 - **Dr. Theresa Burke** held an all-day virtual training for the Diocese of Rapid City.
March 2 - **Dr. Theresa Burke** met with the Rachel's Vineyard team from Kelowna, Canada.
April 14 - **Dr. Theresa Burke** met with the Rachel's Vineyard team from Doylestown, PA.
May 5 - **Dr. Theresa Burke** met with the Rachel's Vineyard team from London, England.
June 14 - **Dr. Theresa Burke** held an all-day virtual training for the Diocese of Rapid City.
June 16 - **Dr. Theresa Burke** presented at the Catholic Medical Boot Camp in Mundelein, IL.
July 10 - **Dr. Theresa Burke** held a training for the Rachel's Vineyard/Grief to Grace team in Phoenix, AZ.
August 30 - **Dr. Theresa Burke** met with the Rachel's Vineyard/Grief to Grace team from Ecuador.
September 22 - **Dr. Theresa Burke** met with the Rachel's Vineyard/Grief to Grace team from Argentina.
October 18 - **Dr. Theresa Burke** held an all-day virtual training for the Diocese of Rapid City.
October 24-27 - **Dr. Theresa Burke** helped facilitate the Rachel's Vineyard retreat in Doylestown, PA.
November 3 - **Dr. Theresa Burke** held an event, Healing in the Light of Hope and Healing in Exton, PA.
November 9 - **Dr. Theresa Burke** met with the Rachel's Vineyard/Grief to Grace teams from Latin America.
November 11 - **Dr. Theresa Burke** met with the Rachel's Vineyard team from Harrisburg, PA.
November 11 - **Dr. Theresa Burke** met with the Rachel's Vineyard team from the Diocese of Orlando, FL.
November 16 - **Dr. Theresa Burke** met with the Rachel's Vineyard team from Perth, Australia.
December 2 - **Dr. Theresa Burke** was a keynote speaker for Undefeated Courage’s Gala in Harrisburg, PA.
This past year, Theresa Burke held a full virtual Rachel’s Vineyard training!! This training has been more successful than we ever could have imagined—each session has had hundreds of attendees from all around the United States, as well as participants spanning all around the world.

Hosted and organized by the Diocese of Rapid City, SD, the Rachel’s Vineyard Professional Training Series has been a unique, practical, and dynamic workshop to equip attendees to help those healing from abortion. The training was split into 6 session dates held over the course of 2 years.

We are so grateful to the Amy Julian, and the truly amazing people of Rapid City who were able to help us successfully navigate this new training platform. They have been nothing short of amazing, and we look forward to continued success in the training dates for 2022!

**Session Dates:**
- February 22, 2021**
- June 14, 2021**
- October 18, 2021**
- February 28, 2022
- June 13, 2022
- October 17, 2022  
  **Completed**

**Costs:**
- $15 per class
- $20 additional per class for CEU’s
- Multiple sessions discount
- Pay over time

**Audience:**
- Clinicians--morning classes are geared to clinicians, but open to all.
- Clergy--are welcome to attend all classes, with one class addressing your special role.
- Rachel’s Vineyard Team--are welcome to attend all classes.
- Anyone--and everyone is welcome. Even if you aren't currently involved in this ministry, understanding the trauma that can stem from abortion can help you help so many!
Snapshots of 2021

Left: Theresa with Karen (RV Arizona), and the filmmakers of a documentary in progress!

Right: Theresa at the Polish National Shrine with their local RV team, and Fr Lukasz Niepsuj from Poland who runs Rachel’s Vineyard retreats

Left: Theresa Burke and Katie D’Annunzio with ministry friends as they celebrate Fr. Johannes and the start of his new order.
We are thrilled to announce the launch of our new Rachel’s Vineyard website!!

We’ve made some exiting updates, while keeping all of the features and information that you know and love. We hope that some of the changes we’ve made will make it easier for those in need to find healing!

~ Rachel’sVineyard.org ~
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.
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.

**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.

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.

**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 Manfried. He is a member of a Rachel’s Vineyard team.
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.

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 or visit 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 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](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 thousands of 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 many 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

Instagram
We are a part of the Instagram community. Our followers grow every day! 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

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

“Rachel’s Vineyard has helped me to move on with hope. When I met other women who had abortions and had suffered just the same as I had, I didn’t feel so alone anymore. The healing I experienced on the weekend was amazing and is still ongoing.”
RachelsVineyard.org
1-877-HOPE-4-ME