



# Vine & Branches

Rachel's Vineyard  
*Healing the Pain of Abortion*  
*One Weekend at a Time*

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## August/September Vine & Branches

### Rachel's Vineyard Team Updates & Announcements

Hello teams! We wanted to remind everyone to please keep our main office up-to-date with a list of your current team members. We have a document you can complete titled "RV Guidelines: Team-Volunteer supplement" (located in our online appendix ) to make it easy to keep that information current. This can help make things like manual orders and communications from our main office as efficient and effective as possible, as well as help us verify if someone is a part of a team or not when they reach out to our office.

We are continuing to work diligently on updating all of the documents in our online appendix. We looking forward to sharing that all with you as soon as possible!

If you should have any trouble finding this document, please reach out to Kate (Assistant@RachelsVineyard.org) or Kelly (2Assistant@RachelsVineyard.org).

Thank you!!

**"Be strong and courageous.  
Do not fear or be in dread of them,  
for it is the Lord your God who goes with you.  
He will not leave you or forsake you."  
~ Deuteronomy 31:6**

### Meet the Leaders!

The beautiful branches in our vineyard are filled with 'grapes' that have been pressed through difficulty and hardship. Remaining in Jesus, the true Vine, they help turn their adversity into 'good fruit.' We're adding this new feature to our Vine and Branches newsletter to help other members of Rachel's Vineyard get to know some of our phenomenal team leaders.

In our last *Vine & Branches*, we highlighted the incredible work God is doing for [women in prison](#). Carrie and Debra's story continues in this issue, as we shift gears and focus on their Rachel's Vineyard Ministry 'outside' the prison walls.



## **A Heart as Big as Texas**

Do you remember walking with your parents when you were a child – how your little legs had to gallop to keep up with each of their steps?

That's an everyday occurrence for Carrie Mann and Debra Morrall, who have been lengthening their strides to keep momentum with God. "He is definitely on the move," Carrie says, laughing, "and we're doing our best to keep up!"

As Abortion Recovery Director and Assistant Director at Hope Pregnancy Center in Texas, Carrie and Debra are running two abortion healing ministries in their local area **and** in [a women's prison](#): Rachel's Vineyard Retreats (RVR) and "Forgiven and Set Free" (FSF), a Bible Study for women who seek healing after their abortions.

Accomplishing that as part-time employees at Hope is amazing enough, but hearing the other things they're doing to help women and men heal and discover community is mind-boggling. Both women quickly point to the wonderful teams they have at Hope and Rachel's Vineyard. "Cindy Vassar is our Administrative Assistant at Hope," Carrie explains. "She handles all the behind-the-scenes stuff. The rest of our team members are volunteers: in the prison teams and on the RVR and FSF teams."

One of the many blessings of Rachel's Vineyard Ministries is that our team members are comprised solely of volunteers. Some people on our teams work at their local Dioceses within the Office of Marriage and Family Life, others work at crisis pregnancy centers, and still others work in completely unrelated fields. Yet they all give their time freely to their Rachel's Vineyard Retreats, helping women and men heal from past decisions they made about their unplanned pregnancies. And nearly all our team members have seen miracles on retreats. Many, if not most, have experienced miracles themselves.

"What keeps me going is what I see God doing in the lives of all the people He has entrusted to us," Carrie exclaims. "He is doing for them exactly what He did for me! That drives me to continue providing these programs for others and being the voice that speaks for those who suffer silently, just as I did for over 15 years. I am so thankful that God uses all our terrible choices, traumas, and pain for His good – and to help others find hope, healing, and salvation in Him."

Working at a place called Hope is a good first step. Yet Carrie and Debra are running full speed ahead to help as many people as they can – and to keep up with all that God is doing in the ministry. Both women recognize the innate need we have to walk alongside others in our paths of healing, so they're diligently providing community for the women who attend their programs.

"When the women go through RVR first, we offer 'Forgiven and Set Free' as an Aftercare program," Debra states, "And then we keep in contact with them; we

continue to build that relationship. They need to know that we genuinely care. There's no hidden agenda here."

In May, their RVR team enjoyed a reunion with the April retreat participants – gathering to talk about what God has been doing in their lives and how they've been feeling. The women still share the special bond they developed over the course of their RVR weekend (something common for RVR participants) and they didn't miss a beat greeting one another, rejoicing in the blessings God has poured into their lives, and showing genuine concern over any difficult situations any of them might be experiencing. In one sense, they have a truly familial relationship.

But, like many families today, most of the women don't live close enough to get together over coffee or tea. Some women drive from out-of-state to attend a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat. And they can be in different places spiritually, too, so having a local Church community is important.

Recognizing this, Carrie and Debra are partnering with different Churches in the area to help their local retreat participants get established in a Church home if they don't already have one. "If they're not part of a Church community, we can get them connected with one that is willing to disciple them, walk alongside them, and teach them how to walk with Christ daily," Debra explains. "It's discipleship. It's the practical."

For women who are not comfortable in a Church community, Debra and Carrie get them connected with other women who can encourage them and help them continue in their spiritual growth. That requires a commitment on both sides to ensure a faithful, healing journey is built on a solid foundation. "It's like a Paul and Timothy, or a Mary and Martha, relationship," Debra states.

Or like a Carrie and Debra relationship.

Their friendship is solidly based on a deep love of God and Scripture. They're enthusiastic about Rachel's Vineyard and the healing they've witnessed in so many women through the ministry. They are honored to be servants of God and to help bring Him to the women and men who participate in their retreats and Bible studies.

Yet, had a last-minute change not occurred, they never would have met.

When Carrie was attending a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat three years ago, Debra was on the team as a prayer warrior (someone who prays for each of the participants throughout the weekend).

"There was a part on Saturday where I was ready to share my story," Carrie states. "I tried to talk, but I could not get it out. Literally, something had my tongue. Debra came by and whispered, 'I'm praying for you.' And I looked at her and was able to say, 'Can we pray together?' At that point, everyone took a break, so we went into the back room where Debra prayed this amazing prayer over me. That gave me the courage and boldness to go and speak. So I went back in, and I got it out. And Debra's been part of my life ever since..." Carrie's voice fades out, and tears well in her eyes.

There's a moment of silence, and then Debra gently says, "And now I get to serve alongside her, and I get to hold her arms up as she leads this wonderful ministry."

But Debra was not scheduled to be on that retreat. A last-minute phone call made two days before it started ensured their paths would cross that Saturday afternoon.

“That’s how we know it was a God-thing,” Carrie utters.

Eventually, they both ended up at Hope, where God, once again, intervened to ensure they’d be working together.

“You do not call yourself,” Debra states, “because then you have to depend on yourself. It’s not **our** ministry. It’s God’s. We’re partnering with Him; we’re just the vessels.”

Vessels, yes. But God uses vessels “for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work.”<sup>[1]</sup>

And His “good work” is pouring through them.

Rachel’s Vineyard is growing in leaps and bounds – both, in the [prison ministry](#) and outside of it.

One Sunday at Church, Debra’s pastor mentioned the word “abortion” twice from the pulpit. The first time she heard it, her ears perked up. The second time, she felt the Holy Spirit nudging her to write a letter. When she got home, she obediently sat down and wrote her heart-felt abortion and healing testimony. “There was no further communication,” she said, “nor any expectations on my part.” Later, a Church Elder contacted Debra and asked if she would be willing to share her testimony at their service, so other women would know that they are not alone in their suffering.

Opening one’s heart and life in front of fellow Church members can be a little nerve-racking, but once again, Debra acquiesced to what God was asking of her. After her talk, time was set aside for Debra, one of her relatives, Carrie, and Lovette Vassar (the former Abortion Recovery Director at Hope) to be present to any of the women who wanted prayer or encouragement.

“What we saw from that was amazing,” Carrie remarks. Twelve women came forward, “wanting healing and help.”

Debra adds, “There was a mix of tears, smiles, and rejoicing. We were given the distinct privilege of being entrusted with this sacred honor.”

Two of the twelve women have already gone on a Rachel’s Vineyard retreat, two went to FSF, two more will be attending the September retreat, and one will be going to the March 2025 retreat.

“What we’re seeing is God is stirring up the hearts of the women in this Church,” Carrie acknowledges. “They keep coming.”

Debra and Carrie also promote the ministry by wearing their Hope Pregnancy nametags wherever they go. “A lot of people ask us what we do at Hope,” Carrie says, “which brings up an interesting conversation. You can always see it on their faces. Then we’ll tell them, ‘Here’s my card. If you or someone you know might need these services, contact us.’”

Debra agrees. “Normally when people ask what I do, I say, ‘I work for Hope Pregnancy Center.’ But after one bible study I attended, I told the woman who asked, ‘I work for Hope Pregnancy Center and the Abortion Recovery Ministry.’ She immediately said, ‘I need to talk to you.’ Afterwards, we texted until about 10:00 pm. I have had tons of Divine appointments like that. I went to a store to buy a charm for my bracelet, and that led to another conversation that’s still ongoing.”

The leader in that same Bible Study brought some informational flyers to her pastor, and her Church is now interested in partnering with Carrie and Debra, as well. “I don’t know what it will look like,” Debra says, “But in God’s timing, these relationships are being solidified.”

Hope Pregnancy Center also refers women who have had abortions to Rachel’s Vineyard. Between Hope, Church, Bible Study, and the women they meet while running errands, Carrie and Debra have helped more women than they can count discover healing and freedom.

“We have had women and men in their early twenties all the way to 90,” Carrie adds. “One 90-year-old lady had been suffering from her abortion for 50 years. She came to Rachel’s Vineyard and got healing. It wasn’t long after the Retreat that she passed.” Fighting back the tears, she continues, “It was amazing to see what God did for her. She was holding her little bitty angel that she got from RVR when she passed. It meant the world to her – and to be freed, finally, at the age of 90.”

Debra slowly nods and relates that she’s been approached by a number of grandmothers lately, too. It’s never too late for healing. And God wants to reclaim their hearts for freedom, for love.

He also wants to reclaim and transform the places where their trauma and devastation occurred. And He’s working miracles there, too. Within the past month, God helped Hope Pregnancy Center achieve one of their dreams: the former abortion clinic that had been closed was up for sale. And Hope was able to get the funding to purchase it for their Abortion Recovery Ministry.

They’ve already prayed over the building and blessed it. After cleaning and refurbishing it, they will open the building for renewal, healing, and growth.

Karen Wistrand, the Executive Director of Hope, writes, “By God’s grace, this building, once a symbol of sorrow and loss, will become a hallowed space of forgiveness, healing and abundant life in Jesus Christ!”

It will truly be a resurrection from the ashes.

“How much more redemptive can you get?” Carrie asks excitedly.

The momentum of God is clear and undeniable. Neither the walls of abortion clinics nor [prison](#) can prevent Him from touching hearts and rebuilding lives—especially through people who are willing to be His vessels.

After their most recent Rachel’s Vineyard Prison Retreat, Carrie and Debra told the women they would have a graduation ceremony after the last retreat. The women were overjoyed just thinking about it. Then they were asked if there was anything they would like to eat afterwards. One of the women, who is finally

discovering God's love and healing after two decades in prison, asked for guacamole. She hasn't had an avocado in 20 years.

We take the simplest things for granted.

Working with women from such varied backgrounds, Debra, Carrie, and their team do not.

"The only difference between me, on the outside, and the ladies inside could be nothing more than environment – or something as simple as being in the wrong place at the wrong time," Debra says. She smiles and adds, "This isn't meant to be easy work, but that's okay, we're trained and have the curriculum – along with the Holy Spirit. And there's such a heart behind what we do."

With Carrie and Debra at the helm, that heart is as big as Texas.

[\[1\]](#) 2 Timothy 2:20-21



Debra Morrall (left) and Carrie Mann (Right)



**"Trust in the Lord with all your heart,  
and do not lean on your own understanding.  
In all your ways acknowledge him,  
and he will make straight your paths."**

**~ Proverbs 3:5-6**

# The Silence of Adam in the Garden of Choice

By Kevin Burke, MSS

[The following is an excerpt from my book, [Tears of the Fisherman](#)]

You have probably heard the creation story from Genesis about Adam and Eve, the snake and the apple. Our enlightened society tends to dismiss the account as a whimsical myth.

The Genesis creation drama, if we take the time to unpack the deeper meaning in the story, reveals fundamental truths about the human person, the relationship of man and woman to God, and the timeless mystery of sin and evil.

As you will see, it is very much a contemporary story.

Medieval art work depicts the familiar construct of this story where Eve is tricked by the clever snake hanging from a branch in a tree as she eats the shiny apple of forbidden fruit. But a superficial understanding of the text can serve to trivialize this encounter, and minimize the frightening nature of Adam and Eve's deceiver.

Scripture Scholar Scott Hahn suggests that the word used in this passage from Genesis to depict the tempter (*nahash* in Hebrew) can be better translated as *serpent*.

Hahn elaborates:

Revelation 12:9 confirms this translation of nahash, not as serpent/snake, but as serpent/dragon, because there Satan is described as the "ancient serpent" and then it goes on to describe a seven-headed dragon. So [Eve] is being confronted and brutally intimidated by a dragon that is intent upon producing disobedience...<sup>[1]</sup>

Hahn then poses the question that psychologist Larry Crabb also asked in his book ***The Silence of Adam***:<sup>[2]</sup>

"The question, then, as you read through [the Genesis] narrative is...where the heck is Adam in all this? By the end of the narrative you discover that he's right by the woman because she just turns and gives him the fruit to eat...<sup>[3]</sup>"

We often focus on the deception of the woman in this account and fail to look more closely on what Adam's silence tells us about this couple. Eve was confronted with a cunning and diabolical force that was taking advantage of her vulnerability, without the support and protection of her partner who was passive and silent in the face of the serpent's attack.

## The Garden of Choice

Meet a modern-day Eve and Adam, Syrah London and her partner Mark. Syrah shares about the appointment to schedule her abortion:

"I remember calling Mark after the appointment, and telling him I was going through with the procedure. His sigh of relief broke my heart. I desperately wanted him to tell me not to do it.

But that never came...I spoke with Mark the night before the appointment, and he told me he was leaving town. Already feeling agony and defeat, his words killed any spirit I had left him, telling me to be strong. That was it.

I got out of bed, sat on the bathroom floor and wept. I wept for this baby, I wept for what I was about to do and I wept because my world was crashing. I knew that after that day, my life would never be the same. [4]"

## The Anguish of Adam

Listen to the voices of these fathers, members of the **Silent No More Awareness Campaign**, as they share about their role in their partner or wife's abortion:

I realized how small of a man I was cause if I had gone with her that day, I probably would have realized what had happened, I would have seen how upset how broken she was, and taken her by the hand and said let's get out of this place. -Steve

I didn't defend the life of my own daughter based on misinformation, selfishness, fear, and shame. I let her die to an abortionist knife and I died the same day. - Scott

I wonder what my son or daughter would look like today if I would have stood up and be a man and fight for the life of my child. – Miguel

Their voices echo the suffering of Adam. Imagine Adam's anguish when he came to see the extent of the damage unleashed by his passivity in the Garden, as Eve faced the serpent's temptation. Men who come to honestly assess their role in abortion decisions understand Adam's pain.

Thankfully, the Lord did not abandon the human family to the deception and lies of the devil. In Christ Jesus we find the new Adam, who offered the ultimate act of sacrificial love.

In [abortion healing programs](#) held across the U.S., and around the world, fathers and mothers of aborted children discover that not all is lost. They come to open their hearts to the mercy and healing of the Lord, and reconnect in love with God and their precious sons and daughters.

[Chapter Three of [Tears of the Fisherman](#) reveals how abortion impacts men who, upon learning of an unplanned pregnancy, embrace their role as protector and provider for their preborn son or daughter - and the devastation unleashed when they are unable to save their child's life.]

[1] Hahn, Scott. Mary Holy Mother. Catholic Pages. <http://www.catholic-pages.com/bvm/hahn.asp>

[2] Crabb, Lawrence J., Don Hudson, and Al Andrews. *The Silence of Adam: Becoming Men of Courage in a World of Chaos*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Pub. House, 1995.

[3] Ibid



"The secret of getting ahead  
is getting started."  
~ Mark Twain

## Visitors at RV Headquarters

Monika and Domenico Rodman from RV Italy recently visited our main office in the Philadelphia area. It was wonderful to catch up with the Rodman's and to get an update on RV Italy. During our discussions we learned about "The Hope Monument."

"Why the Hope Monument? ...women say that after an abortion or miscarriage there was no baby, no grave site or memorial and it was as though the child never existed. No one spoke of this child or acknowledged his or her existence."

To read more about RV Italy and "The Hope Monument", [click here!](#)



*Domenico, Monika, and Dr. Theresa Burke*



*Monika, Kelly (RV Headquarters), Mary (RV Headquarters) and Domenico*



*Domenico, Monika, Kevin Burke and Dr. Theresa Burke*

Fr. Howe, whose mother served on the RV team in MN, also visited on headquarters recently. His mother is also the founder of "The Seven Sisters", which has become a nation-wide intercession group who pray for priests.

Fr. Howe is the president of the GK Chesterton Society. Fr. stopped by to visit and encourage our efforts.



*Dr. Burke with Fr. Howe*

**"What seems to us as bitter trials  
are often blessings in disguise."  
~ Oscar Wilde**

**25 Years of Healing in Dallas!**

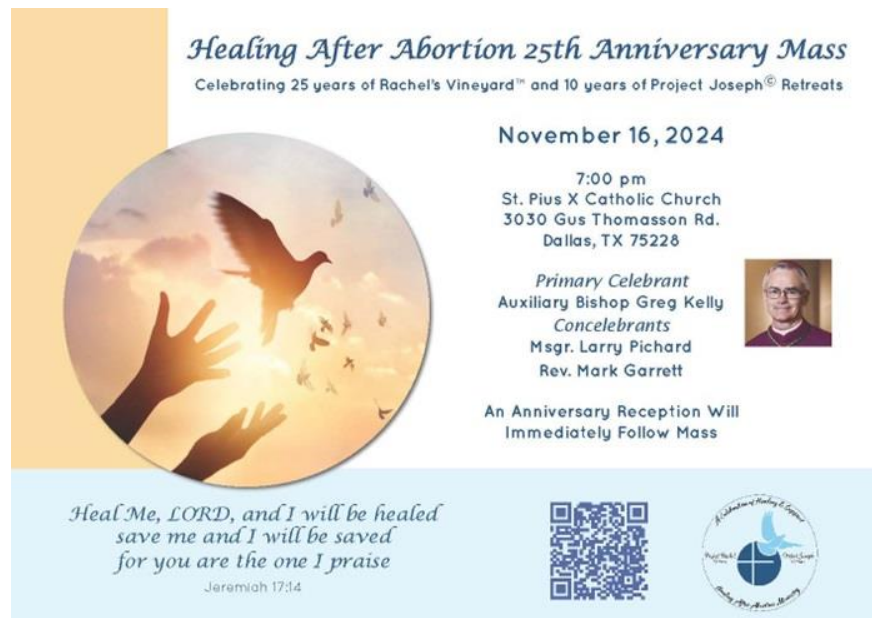
Congratulations to the Dallas, TX, Rachel's Vineyard team!! We are so proud of the hard work, dedication, and love they have put into 25 blessed years of healing.

The site leader, Eileen Kuhlmann, shared some of her thoughts with us:

"25 years being able to offer Rachel's Vineyard Retreats, a venue for God's merciful healing of hearts wounded by abortion decisions. 10 years of offering the men a place where they can gather confidentially and seek additional and deeper healing through Project Joseph Retreats. Years and years of overcoming fear, pain and shame, only to receive abundant blessings, and healing. Years of walking with people arriving at our door with their eyes riveted on the ground, as shame prevented them from looking up to see their loving Savior ready to heal their hearts. Years of embracing them as their remorse, regret and tears washed every fiber of their being. Years of standing with them at the door as they prepared to walk out of retreat with a renewed sense of identity, acceptance of how much they are loved and forgiven and awareness of how much lighter they felt, as well as discovering a huge smile on their faces. Years and years of continuing to walk with them as they check in every once in a while or invite us to their weddings and share family joy with us.

What an incredible joy and privilege we have been given to walk at their sides and experience their transformation, their surrender, their acceptance of God's love and merciful embrace. We have been greatly blessed by being invited to be there.

Time to celebrate!!!????? You bet!!! Please get out your permanent marker and etch the date into your calendar! I really hope we can get as many team members as possible at this Mass celebrating our 25 years and 10 years!!! I Hope to see you there!"




*Healing After Abortion 25th Anniversary Mass*  
Celebrating 25 years of Rachel's Vineyard™ and 10 years of Project Joseph® Retreats

**November 16, 2024**



7:00 pm  
St. Pius X Catholic Church  
3030 Gus Thomasson Rd.  
Dallas, TX 75226

*Primary Celebrant*  
Auxiliary Bishop Greg Kelly  
*Concelebrants*  
Msgr. Larry Pichard  
Rev. Mark Garrett



An Anniversary Reception Will  
Immediately Follow Mass

*Heal Me, LORD, and I will be healed  
save me and I will be saved  
for you are the one I praise*  
Jeremiah 17:14



*La Misa del 25º Aniversario  
del Ministerio de Sanación Después del Aborto*  
Celebrando 25 años de los retiros del Viñedo de Raquel™  
y 10 años de Proyecto José®

**16 de noviembre, 2024**  
7:00 pm  
Iglesia Católica San Pio Décimo  
3030 Gus Thomasson Rd.  
Dallas, TX 75228

*Celebrante Principal*  
Obispo Auxiliar Greg Kelly

*Concelebrantes*  
Mons. Larry Pichard  
Rev. Mark Garrett

Se Celebrará una Recepción por  
el Aniversario Inmediatamente Después de la Misa

*¡Sáname, Señor, y quedaré sano,  
sálvame y estaré a salvo, porque tú  
eres mi alabanza!*  
Jeremías 17:14





**"Hardships often prepare ordinary people  
for an extraordinary destiny."**

~ C. S. Lewis

## **RV Recommends: Bernhard Streisselberger**

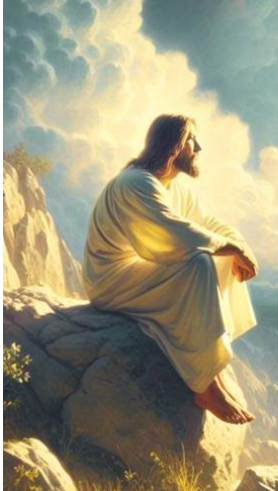
*A note from Dr. Theresa Burke:*

I want to introduce you to a personal friend of mine who is available to provide aftercare coaching following Grief to Grace or Rachel's Vineyard for anyone who might be seeking to continue growing with good counsel. I first met Bernhard in Austria many years ago where he was serving as a therapist on The Rachel's Vineyard Retreat team in Vienna. He's also served as a facilitator on the Grief to Grace retreats. Bernhard was just recently married in America and is launching a Christian coaching business. I want to introduce him to you, with full confidence in his deep faith, his background in psychology, with a desire to help you continue the healing! Please check him out or pass on a referral to someone in need.

*An introduction from Bernhard Streisselberger:*

My name is Bernhard Streisselberger, and I am a native of Neuhofen/Ybbs, Austria. I graduated with a Masters in Psychotherapy-Science in 2016 in Vienna, and then lived in a Cistercian Monastery and was formed as a Catholic monk. Through this, I learned what it means to seek God's presence and listen to His voice. In 2023, I graduated with a Masters in Theology from Franciscan University of Steubenville. As a professional counselor, I specialized in Gestalt therapy and Trauma-Therapy (EMDR). For more than 11 years, I have been working with clients and abuse victims, utilizing everything I learned from my university training and personal experience—in private practice as well as different retreat settings, such as Rachel's Vineyard (Austria, Romania), and Grief to Grace (USA). I have also immersed myself in the great works of Dr. Conrad Baars, the Immanuel Approach of Dr. Karl Lehman, and the studies of narcissistic abuse. All of this has helped me teach my clients how to protect

themselves from the emotional/spiritual violence of narcissism, discover a wealth of resources for exploring and expanding their deepest strengths, receive healing, and regain their unique God-given dignity. In this way, I love to help my clients grow and thrive in their human, emotional, and spiritual development.



*Jesus. God with us*

Experience Jesus' presence and comfort through the **Immanuel Approach** - an authentic and scientifically based method for healing.

Book a 30 min free coaching session with  
Bernhard Streisselberger  
(trained Counselor & Coach)

threshmountains.com  
streisselbergercc@pm.me  
740 424 5004

*"I want to recommend Bernhard to you, with full confidence in his deep faith, his background in psychology, and a desire to help you grow and heal."  
Dr. Theresa Burke*

**"Our greatest weakness lies in giving up.  
The most certain way to succeed  
is always to try just one more time."  
~ Thomas Edison**

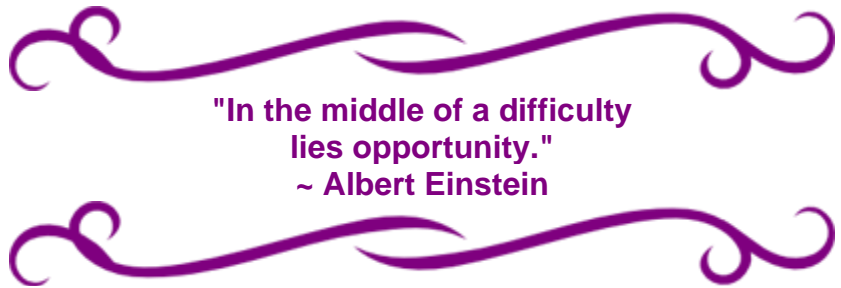
## News from Rachel's Vineyard in Medjugorje



We recently received the article from the magazine that is published by the Oasis of Peace Community in Medjugorje. RV Medjugorje was one of the featured articles in the April 2024 issue. Below is the translated news piece from Italian to English:

“For the second time, the Mejugorje Community hosts Rachel's Vineyard, a retreat dedicated to women who have experienced the trauma of abortion. The retreat is organized by Yesica Gonzalez, local coordinator of the project, with the help of the Franciscan Fr. Augustin Conner and other members of the Vineyard. The participants, all from Latin America, have found in the Community a safe place to give voice to their pain, an Oasis of Peace where they can re-elaborate their grief. In the framework of this place of grace, through prayer, sharing, and the activities of the healing program, the tears of these mothers have been transformed into hope, and remorse into profound reconciliation.”

It's a reminder of all the ongoing dedication and work in the US and around the world to this ministry – despite the media and legislative-backed, pro-choice culture we live in. Your work has not gone unnoticed and we are thankful for our RV leaders and teams as they bring healing and restoration to women and men suffering from the trauma of abortion or other pregnancy loss. May God's protection and blessing be upon each and every one of you!!!



"In the middle of a difficulty  
lies opportunity."  
~ Albert Einstein

### Resources: Back on the Shelf at the RV



### **Duelo Prohibido: El Dolor No Expresado Del Aborto (Spanish Edition of *Forbidden Grief* by Dr. Theresa Burke)**

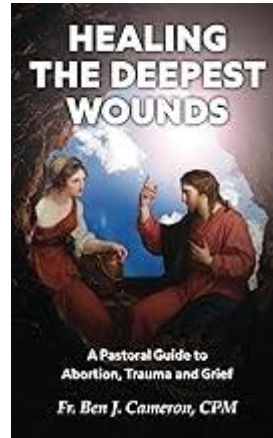
For more than thirty years, our nation has argued about abortion. In that time, over twenty-five million women have had one or more abortions.

These conflicts reflect the ambivalence and psychological discord which also occur within individuals. Even women who chose abortion for the most compelling reasons often face a daily internal battle between defending and condemning themselves.

While the political battle rages, little has been done to address the emotional needs of those who struggle with feelings of grief, shame, guilt, feeling judged by others--and more. Instead, social taboos have been erected that stifle discussion of abortion-related feelings. Women are left feeling isolated and their recovery is inhibited.

In *Forbidden Grief*, Dr. Burke explores the cultural and psychological obstacles to post-abortion healing. She examines why friends and families erect walls of silence around a loved one's grief and reveals how we can and should listen to those who are struggling with past abortions.

Available by emailing or calling the Rachel's Vineyard International Headquarters: [2assistant@rachelsvineyard.org](mailto:2assistant@rachelsvineyard.org)  
610-354-0555  
Cost: \$21.95 + Shipping

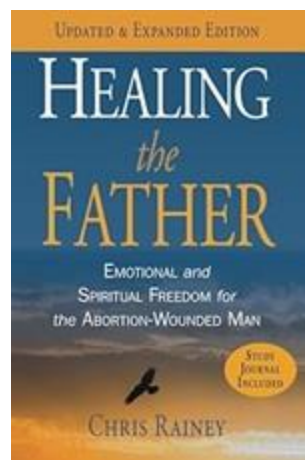


***Healing the Deepest Wounds:  
A Pastoral Guide to Abortion, Trauma, and Grief*  
By Fr. Ben Cameron**

*Healing the Deepest Wounds* is the go-to resource for those who accompany a woman or a man in the process of healing from the wounds of abortion.

For those hoping to support someone who suffers from the wounds of abortion, this book offers practical insights for both emotional and spiritual healing. It is especially helpful for priests, pastors and counselors.

Available for purchase on [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com), or <https://shop.fathersofmercy.com/products/healing-the-deepest-wounds>



***Healing the Father: Emotional and Spiritual Freedom  
for the Abortion-Wounded Man*  
By Chris Rainey**

For every abortion a man is involved. Considerable attention is given to the post-abortive woman, but what about the man? Just like the woman, the man can experience guilt, regret, and emotional trauma from his involvement with an

abortion. However, the man is often ignored or forgotten and left to deal with the fallout of guilt and regret he might carry into all aspects of his life.

*Healing the Father* contrasts the woman's experience from that of a man and goes on to offer the abortion-wounded man peace and comfort available through the miracle for forgiveness. He does not have to carry the guilt and regret from his experience.

Actual life stories are presented of individual experiences, including the author's own experience. Through principals, stories shared, and suggested actions going forward, abortion-wounded men can discover emotional freedom through the power of forgiveness.

To purchase on [Amazon, click here!](#)

For more information, email [chrisrainey713@gmail.com](mailto:chrisrainey713@gmail.com) or visit <https://healingthefather.org/>.



"We must accept finite disappointment,  
but we must never lose infinite hope."

~ Martin Luther King, Jr.



## United in Prayer

Please keep **Cheryl Ryan** (RV Wisconsin) and **her family** in your prayers. Cheryl recently lost her beloved husband. Our love, prayers and support go out to Cheryl during this difficult time.

Please pray for **Anne Sherston**, who recently lost her beloved son-in-law, Chris. We pray for Anne, her daughter, and their entire family during this most difficult time. Our love, prayers, and deepest sympathies go out to Anne and her family.

Please pray for **Anne Arthur and her friend** after the unexpected loss of her best friend's son, **Chris**. We pray for peace and strength during this time.

### Retirements

We are so grateful to Christiane Kurpik and Christiane Wiedebusch for their 15+ years of service to Rachel's Vineyard Ministries in Germany. May we offer you this prayer:

As God blessed our ancestors on their journeys, so may you be blessed as you embark on the journey of your retirement. May you find rest and challenge, quiet and adventure. May you be sustained by the achievements of your work life and inspired by the possibilities of what lies ahead. May you allow yourself to experience silence and rest, and may you open yourself to the new music that may emerge from that silence. To the glory of you, Father. Amen.



"Blessed are those that mourn,



for they will be comforted."

~ Matthew 5:4

**Connect with us!!**  
**Rachel's Vineyard Social Media**



Social Media provides a wonderful opportunity for us to connect with our teams, retreatants, and ministry supporters from around the world!

Please follow us to stay up-to-date with the latest from RV:

[Facebook.com/RachelsVineyard](https://www.facebook.com/RachelsVineyard)

Instagram [@RVHealing](https://www.instagram.com/RVHealing)

Twitter/X [@RVHealing](https://twitter.com/RVHealing)

[Youtube.com/RachelsVineyard](https://www.youtube.com/RachelsVineyard)

"I sit beside the fire and think  
Of all that I have seen  
Of meadow flowers and butterflies  
In summers that have been  
Of yellow leaves and gossamer  
In autumns that there were  
With morning mist and silver sun  
And wind upon my hair."  
~ J.R.R. Tolkien

**Additional Healing Programs from Dr. Theresa Burke**

The founder of Rachel's Vineyard, Dr. Theresa Burke, has developed two additional healing retreats:

- Grief to Grace: Healing the Wounds of Abuse, Reclaiming the Gift of Human Dignity
- Duty to Heal: Finding Peace for a Soldiers Heart.

To see the retreat schedule for Grief to Grace, [click here!](#)  
For more information about Duty to Heal, [click here!](#)



"Storms make trees  
take deeper roots."  
~ Dolly Parton



## **Upcoming Rachel's Vineyard Retreat Weekends**

There will be 30 retreats held around the world throughout the month of  
September.  
To see a full list of our upcoming retreats and locations, [please click here!!](#)

