



# Vine & Branches

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

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## UNSUBSCRIBE

February 2021

## Love of Merciful Shepherd By Sister Marcelina Mikulska, CSFN, MS

What is the meaning of life without love? Is there a fulfillment of love in lifeless existence? Does mercy look at one's life through the lenses of truth? One who admits one's sinfulness understands love and mercy of the powerful God. Love and mercy are neatly woven into life. The Letter to the Hebrews emphasizes the power of life that cannot be destroyed.

There is a picture of incredible simplicity. The image reveals mercy of the shepherd. Please imagine a steep rocky slope, dangerous rock, imprisoning thorns, and a little lamb struggling to breathe in the thorny bush located on an extremely high gradient. With every breath in and every breath out, thorns, through his delicate wool, cut its skin and bleed. The smallest movement can result in going into the abyss. Tension, fear, loneliness, hopelessness, helplessness, and tremendous hurt accompany the lamb's bleating.

Just above the lamb's exhausted body the reaching hand of the shepherd is visible. Again, even the one small gesture without purpose can result in shepherd's and lamb's abysmal destination. Shepherd risks not only His precious life and the life of a lost lamb but also the shepherdless lives of 99 other sheep. Still, he reaches to rescue the one. Isn't this act counted among the most amazing and heroic gestures about which we usually hear from the movies?

We are like this little lost lamb at times, or sometimes even more often than at times. God, in His Son, comes to our rescue every single day. He knows our pain, hurt, need of love, sinfulness, unworthiness, and so forth. Nevertheless, He looks at us with His loving eyes full of mercy and He says, I KNOW YOUR PAIN AND AFFLICTION AND BECAUSE YOU ARE WORTHY IN MY EYES, I RESCUE YOU, I HELP YOU. I LOVE YOU! HAVE A FULLNESS OF LIFE!

Deus Caritas Est (God is Love) despite our sinfulness, disease of the soul, and any distortions! As God, love is also needed and preeminent. Love and mercy are sacrificial. As the Son of God, Jesus proclaimed the message about the importance of being merciful, loving, and forgiving to one another. In the sacraments of healing, God comes to us with the unfathomable reservoir of mercy.

Blessed Mary of Jesus the Good Shepherd, the Polish foundress of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, perfectly trusted her Shepherd's rescuing, loving, strong, and merciful arms. She knew that He directed everything in her humble life, that He kept vigil

upon her soul, knocked at the door of her heart, and even chastised when she needed it so she could entirely belong to Him. In the Gospel of Mark, those of hardness of heart are rhetorically asked by Jesus, "On the sabbath, is it lawful to save life rather than to destroy it?" May our response be, "Jesus, You have the power of indestructible life. Give me your strength and have mercy on me. Amen."

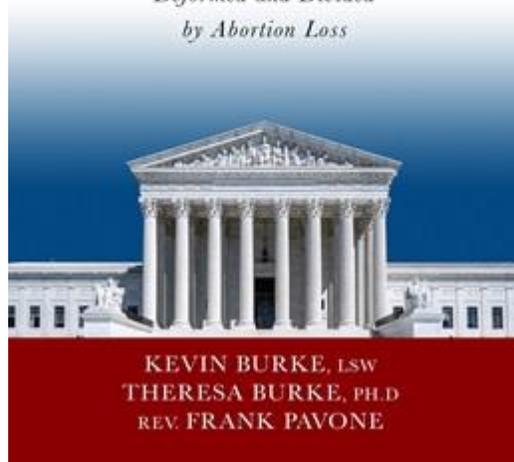
**"Nothing great is ever achieved  
without much enduring."  
~ St. Catherine of Siena**

## **"Rivers of Blood, Oceans of Mercy"**

**By Kevin Burke, LSW  
Theresa Burke, Ph.D  
Rev. Frank Pavone**

### **Rivers of Blood Oceans of Mercy**

*Healing a Nation  
Deformed and Divided  
by Abortion Loss*



Rivers of Blood/Oceans of Mercy lifts the veil on reproductive rights, and reveals how the fallout from more than 60 million abortions extends far beyond the private sphere of a woman's personal healthcare decisions; the impact is dynamic, and far-reaching: -Learn how the failure to reconcile and grieve personal abortion led an OB/GYN physician, and a Roe V Wade attorney, to become pioneers in the movement to legalize abortion. - Understand the connection between outraged feminists who see "rivers of blood" flowing from a judge's Supreme Court nomination, yet fail to see the dynamic relationship of abortion and sexual trauma. -Discover how a the suppression of natural grief and loss find expression in the successful Netflix series "Stranger Things" set in the 1980's in a small town where children go mysteriously missing. -Learn the toxic synergy of abortion with adult children of divorce, and the complex dynamics of couples that abort their children given a poor prenatal diagnosis. -Are you shocked and confused as our nation descends deeper into transgender madness? There's an abortion connection. After unveiling the deeper impact of Roe 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.

*“Rivers of Blood/Oceans of Mercy will be a valuable resource for counselors and volunteers in abortion recovery ministries and for the general public to understand the wider and dynamic impact of abortion on our nation...and help women and men, couples and families find reconciliation and healing.”*

-Martha Shuping, MD, Psychiatrist and President of the Ashford Institute

*“Members of the clergy especially need to understand this critical topic... the authors offer vital insights which will equip them to bring healing to their congregations. I strongly recommend this important work to clergy and those who want to understand the scope of this issue.”*

-Rev. Chester C. Egert, D.Min.,  
Chaplain, Retired, United States Army

*“Most Americans are oblivious to the human carnage inflicted on society by abortion. Rivers of Blood /Oceans of Mercy enlightens readers to the grave realities of what abortion has wrought... in the end this book will encourage you because Mercy ultimately wins.”*

-Bradley Mattes of Life Issues Institute

\*\*[To purchase this book, click here!](#)



**"Many of life's failures  
are people who did not realize  
how close they were to success  
when they gave up."  
~ Thomas Edison**



## **Message from the Pastoral Director**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It's a characteristic of the most volatile issues of public debate that ***the opposing sides are answering different questions***, and therefore no true debate or dialogue is really happening, and no resolution comes about.

So it is with a question right at the heart of our work at Rachel's Vineyard – the dispute over whether abortion damages Moms, Dads, families, and the wider society.

We know it does, both from the studies and the testimonies, but many on the other side deny that.

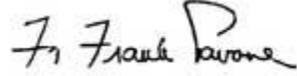
Yet here's a question that can serve well as the basis for a real dialogue: ***what do studies say about how abortion impacts the health of Moms, Dads, families and society?***

There is certainly no lack of such studies, and we know well the research of our own (fabulous) Rachel's Vineyard founder, Dr. Theresa Burke. And her voice is not alone. Even “pro-choice” researchers have concluded that abortion does harm.

Not all studies are created equal, or carried out equal, but just looking at the mountain of evidence that exists is a good place for everyone to start. Rather than looking at the political and ideological positions of “associations” and groups (like the American Psychological Association), we urge people to look at the *actual studies*. Those are two very different things.

Thank you for being sensitive to the harm abortion does, and supportive of the efforts to help those who are harmed. Let’s keep moving forward to victory!

Sincerely,



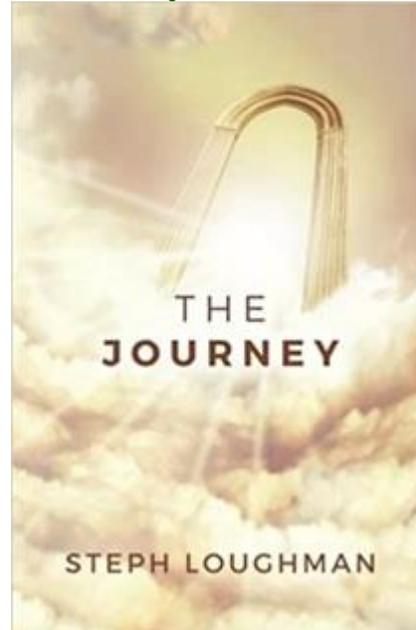
Fr. Frank Pavone  
Pastoral Director, Rachel’s Vineyard Ministries  
National Director, Priests for Life



**"Hope is like the sun,  
which, as we journey toward it,  
casts the shadow of our burden behind us."  
~ Samuel Smiles**



### **Rachel's Vineyard Recommends:**



This book, *The Journey* is a double journey of acquaintance of son and his mother! Steph Loughman, in “*The Journey*,” shows the transformation of heart from conscious inhibition and despair to conversion, hope, and intense responsibility to help others. Her experience of pain, shame, guilt, and embarrassment is mirrored with the sheer love of her child who walks eternally with the purest Love, Jesus. The horrifying experience and result of abortion lead her to more relational friendships. Above all, hopelessness leads to a beautiful and longing relationship between mother and her child.

Steph allows herself to mourn, after a long time of suppressed loss, for Joshua. The power of forgiveness is revealed when a desolate soul meets the Unconditional Love of a Merciful God. Jesus’ lap becomes a safe place for a child lost by abortion, while a

mother's heart metamorphoses into inner tranquility amid suffering.

Loughman wanted to portray a glimpse of heaven seen through curated human imagination. While reading "The Journey," a reader can hear singing choirs of angels by the throne of God and meet biblical people such as Mary, a sister of Lazarus, Joseph, King David, Stephen, Paul, and many more holy people.

The meaningful image of the beautiful river is mentioned a few times on the pages of this book. The water that is our life, that cleanses us, and sanctifies us, is a favorite and most attended place for her hospitable son, who wants to share its life-giving characteristics with those who enter the magnificent sacredness. Notwithstanding, Joshua is waiting nostalgically for the arrival of his mommy the same way Jesus awaits His Children to turn to His Sacred Heart.

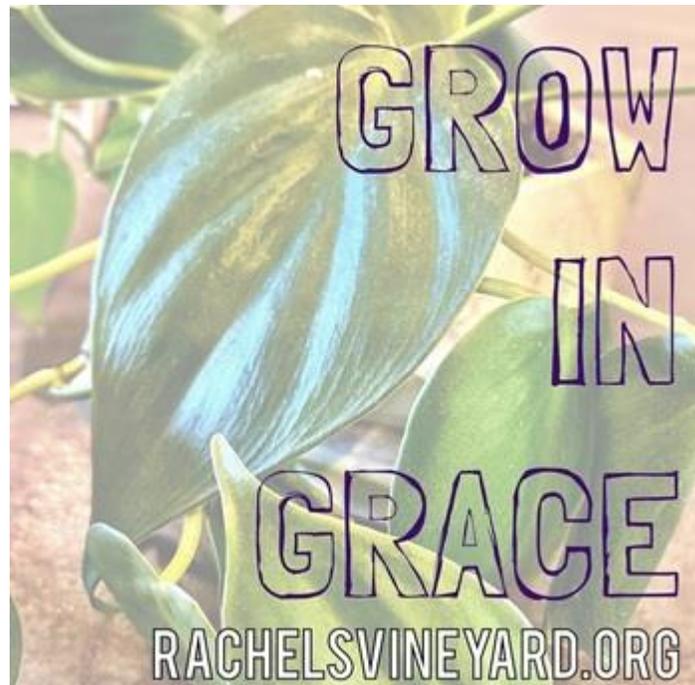
\*\*To purchase please [click here!](#)

**"Faith sees the invisible,  
believes the unbelievable,  
and receives the impossible."**

**~ Corrie Ten Boom**

**Connect with us!!**

**Rachel's Vineyard in Social Media**



Facebook Fan Page: [facebook.com/rachelsvineyard](https://facebook.com/rachelsvineyard)

YouTube: [youtube.com/user/rachelsvineyard](https://youtube.com/user/rachelsvineyard)

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

Pinterest: [pinterest.com/rachelsvineyard](https://pinterest.com/rachelsvineyard)

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



"We must accept finite disappointment,  
but we must never lose infinite hope."  
~ Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



## Virtual Training Event

Join Dr. Theresa Burke, a pioneer and expert in the Post Abortion Counseling movement for a dynamic and life-changing series of training that will build and strengthen a solid foundation for Healing After Abortion.

The Rachels' Vineyard Professional Training Series will provide unique, practical, and dynamic workshops to equip you for post abortion counseling.

**This unique training will be held in 6 sessions over the course of 2 years.**

### Session Dates:

- February 22, 2021
- June 14, 2021
- October 18, 2021
- February 28, 2022
- June 13, 2022
- October 17, 2022

### Costs:

- \$15 per class
- \$20 additional per class for CEU's (pending)
- 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. Plus we have a 12:00 noon class reserved just for RV Team. We're looking forward to seeing you!
- **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!

\*To learn more about this training, [click here](#).

\*To visit the Facebook Event page, [click here](#).

\*To Register directly, [click here](#).



**"Tell me and I forget.  
Teach me and I remember.  
Involve me and I learn."  
~ Benjamin Franklin**



## **Upcoming Grief to Grace Retreats**

[www.GriefftoGrace.org](http://www.GriefftoGrace.org)

(Retreat dates subject to change due to Covid-19)

### **Phoenix, AZ**

Email: [Phoenix@griefftoGrace.org](mailto:Phoenix@griefftoGrace.org)

Call: 480-215-6762

### **February 21-26, 2021**

**July 4-9, 2021** \*\*Retreat for 18-35 year-olds

**July 21-25, 2021** \*\*Retreat Held in Spanish

### **Houston, TX**

Email: [G2GTexas@GriefftoGrace.org](mailto:G2GTexas@GriefftoGrace.org)

Call: 866-763-6557

### **May 29-June 2, 2021**

**August 28-September 1, 2021**

### **Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN**

Email: [Diane@griefftoGrace.org](mailto:Diane@griefftoGrace.org)

Call: 612-440-7247

### **June 6-11, 2021**

### **Lake Charles, LA**

Email: [griefftoGracelouisiana@lcdiocese.org](mailto:griefftoGracelouisiana@lcdiocese.org)

Call: Marjorie Long – 337-489-2473

### **June 29-July 2, 2021**

### **Newark, NJ**

Email: [info@griefftoGrace.org](mailto:info@griefftoGrace.org)

Call: 610-203-2002

### **Beaverton, OR**

Email: [GriefftoGraceOregon@gmail.com](mailto:GriefftoGraceOregon@gmail.com)

Call: 541-357-7501

**Philadelphia, PA**

Email: Philadelphia@Griegtograce.Org

Call: 610-427-1187

Call: 610-203-2002

**March 21-26, 2021**

International:

**Perth, Australia**

Website: <https://rachelsvineyardministriesperth.wordpress.com/grief-to-grace>

Email: perth@griegtograce.org

Call: +61-0-413-593-059

**Cote D'Azur, France**

Website: [www.duchagrinalagrace.com](http://www.duchagrinalagrace.com)

Email: g2g.lsi.france@gmail.com

Call: +33 6 09 39 79 27

**July 5-11, 2021**

\*\*Retreat held in Abbayes Notre Dame de Jouarre

**El Salvador**

Email: Anajhill@hotmail.com

Call: Ana Julia Hill – 503-772-97-721

Call: Nueva Alianza – 503-229-87-000

**Kelowna, Canada**

Email: G2GKelowna@gmail.com

Call: 250-878-7603

**London, UK**

Email: info@griegtograceuk.org

Call: +44-207-937-4297

Call: +44-07484-248-799

**Slovenia**

Email: tomaz.mikus@gmail.com



**"Have faith in God. Truly I say to you,  
whoever says to this mountain,  
'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,'  
and does not doubt in his heart,  
but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him.  
Therefore, I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer,  
believe that you have received it, and it will be yours."  
~ Mark 11:22-24**



# Rachel's Vineyard Retreat Dates

(Retreat dates subject to change due to Covid-19)

## **Austin, TX**

Contact: Sheryle Knorre 512-876-8049 sheryle@celebration.church

Denomination: Interdenominational

Friday, February 5, 2021

Sunday, February 7, 2021

## **Dallas (Español), TX**

Website Address: [www.racheldallas.org](http://www.racheldallas.org)

Contact: Eileen Kuhlmann 972 900 7262 sanacion@racheldallas.org

Friday, February 5, 2021

Sunday, February 7, 2021

## **Atlanta, GA**

Website Address: [www.healingafterabortion.org](http://www.healingafterabortion.org)

Contact: Liz Youngs 404-717-5557 programdirector@pathatl.com

Friday, February 12, 2021

Sunday, February 14, 2021

## **Lake Charles, LA**

Website Address: [www.lcdiocese.org](http://www.lcdiocese.org)

Contact: Marjorie Long 337-489-2473 rachels.vineyard@lcdiocese.org

Friday, February 12, 2021

Sunday, February 14, 2021

## **Portland, OR**

Contact: Lori Eckstine 541-942-2861 ProjectAurora@aol.com

Friday, February 12, 2021

Sunday, February 14, 2021

## **Cypress/Katy (Interdenom), TX**

Website Address: [www.newheartoftexas.org](http://www.newheartoftexas.org)

Contact: Mary Lee Mason 866-763-6557 rvinfo@newheartoftexas.org

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Saturday, February 20, 2021

## **Cape Town, South Africa**

Website Address: [www.rachelsvineyard.co.za](http://www.rachelsvineyard.co.za)

Contact: Angie Farrenkothen +27828521284 farrenkothen@mweb.co.za

Language: English

Friday, February 19, 2021

Sunday, February 21, 2021

## **The Netherlands**

Website Address: [www.rachelsvineyardnederland.com](http://www.rachelsvineyardnederland.com)

Contact: Zuster Sterre +31 06 -1700 8167 c.sterrederzee@servidoras.org

Language: Dutch

Friday, February 19, 2021

Sunday, February 21, 2021

**Central Texas (Interdenominational), TX**

Contact: Lovette Vassar 254-702-6723 [abortionrecovery@hopepc.com](mailto:abortionrecovery@hopepc.com)

Contact: Susie Wilde 254-718-2823 [swilde58@gmail.com](mailto:swilde58@gmail.com)

Friday, February 26, 2021

Sunday, February 28, 2021

**Lansing, MI**

Contact: Della Seeley 989-828-6002 [nlcrachelsvineyard@gmail.com](mailto:nlcrachelsvineyard@gmail.com)

Contact: Toll Free Hotline 517-993-0291

Friday, February 26, 2021

Sunday, February 28, 2021

**Trenton, NJ**

Contact: Judy Warenkiewicz 732-536-6871 [judywarren543@msn.com](mailto:judywarren543@msn.com)

Friday, February 26, 2021

Sunday, February 28, 2021

**Wichita, KS**

Contact: Bonnie Toombs 316-269-3935 [toombsb@CatholicDioceseOfWichita.org](mailto:toombsb@CatholicDioceseOfWichita.org)

Contact: Stephanie Nemechek 316-269-3900x134  
[nemecheks@catholicdioceseofwichita.org](mailto:nemecheks@catholicdioceseofwichita.org)

Friday, February 26, 2021

Sunday, February 28, 2021

**Columbus, OH**

Website Address: [www.OurChoiceOurVoice.org](http://www.OurChoiceOurVoice.org)

Contact: Carolyn Klair 614-721-2100 [CarolynK@pdhc.org](mailto:CarolynK@pdhc.org)

Friday, March 5, 2021

Sunday, March 7, 2021

**Lubbock, TX**

Contact: Mindy Yarbrough 806-702-2284 [rios2000us@yahoo.com](mailto:rios2000us@yahoo.com)

Friday, March 5, 2021

Sunday, March 7, 2021

**Northwest Indiana, IN**

Contact: Rosanne Kouris 219-552-2944 [nwinrv@outlook.com](mailto:nwinrv@outlook.com)

Friday, March 5, 2021

Sunday, March 7, 2021

**Philadelphia Area, PA**

Contact: Georgeann McGarry 484-955-4278 [geemcgarry@gmail.com](mailto:geemcgarry@gmail.com)

Contact: Susan 610-716-4795

Friday, March 5, 2021

Sunday, March 7, 2021

**Tucson, AZ**

Website Address: <https://www.rachelsvineyardtucson.org>

Contact: Teresa Small 520-743-6777 [rachelsvineyardtucson@gmail.com](mailto:rachelsvineyardtucson@gmail.com)

Friday, March 5, 2021

Sunday, March 7, 2021

**Asheville, NC**

Contact: Jackie Childers 980 241-0251 [jackie.childers1@gmail.com](mailto:jackie.childers1@gmail.com)

Contact: Spanish - Karina Hernandez 336-267-1937

Contact: Spanish - Lorena Haynes 828-585-0483

Language: Spanish

Friday, March 12, 2021

Sunday, March 14, 2021

### **Grand Rapids, MI**

Contact: Maggie Walsh 616-340-1824 mwalsh@ccwestmi.org

Contact: Toll-free (MI only) 800-800-8284

Friday, March 12, 2021

Sunday, March 14, 2021

*Note: Virtual retreat with the option of lodging at the Franciscan Center if unable to participate virtually from home.*

### **Maison de la Trinité , ACR, France**

Contact: Joel Rosenfeld 06-08-42-43-81 lavignederacheloise@gmail.com

Language: French

Friday, March 12, 2021

Sunday, March 14, 2021

### **Peoria, IL**

Website Address: [www.cdop.org/rachels-vineyard](http://www.cdop.org/rachels-vineyard)

Contact: Colleen Harmon 309-264-1489 rvrpeoria@gmail.com

Contact: Cathy Trowbridge 309-264-1489 rvrpeoria@gmail.com

Friday, March 12, 2021

Sunday, March 14, 2021

### **Central Indiana, IN**

Contact: Jennie Hack 765-404-9583 jenniehack@gmail.com

Contact: David Bangs 765-860-6006 dlbangs1@gmail.com

Friday, March 19, 2021

Sunday, March 21, 2021

### **Houston, TX**

Website Address: <https://www.archgh.org/projectrachel>

Contact: Cindy 713-825-0649 cindy@rvhouston.org

Contact: Julie Fritsch 713-741-8728 jkfritsch@archgh.org

Contact: Zulema (Spanish Contact) 713-440-3443 zgonzalez@archgh.org

Friday, March 19, 2021

Sunday, March 21, 2021

### **Madison, WI**

Website Address: [www.madisondiocese.org/rachel](http://www.madisondiocese.org/rachel)

Contact: Mary Mead 608-221-9593 meadmt@sbcglobal.net

Contact: Mary Mead 608-821-3177 rachel@straphael.org

Friday, March 19, 2021

Sunday, March 21, 2021

### **Atlanta (For Military & Veterans), GA**

Contact: Jody Duffy, RN 404-247-9046 militaryandveterans@supportafterabortion.com

Denomination: Interdenominational

Friday, March 26, 2021

Sunday, March 28, 2021

**Cork, ICK, Ireland**

Website Address: [www.rachelsvineyard.ie](http://www.rachelsvineyard.ie)

Contact: Bernadette Goulding

087 859 2877 [noramalone15@yahoo.com](mailto:noramalone15@yahoo.com)

Friday, March 26, 2021

Sunday, March 28, 2021

**Shreveport, LA**

Contact: Rosalba Quiroz – Spanish 318-588-1064

[rquiroz@dioshpt.org](mailto:rquiroz@dioshpt.org)

Language: Spanish

Friday, March 26, 2021

Sunday, March 28, 2021