



Vine & Branches

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

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July 2021

Marriage Preparation: Preventative Care for Couples with Abortion History

[The following is an excerpt from the book [Rivers of Blood/Oceans of Mercy](#) by Kevin, Theresa Burke, and Fr Frank Pavone]

A Rachel's Vineyard Retreat Facilitator from the Midwest shares about a couple that attended their weekend retreat:

"The girl had an abortion before she met her fiancée. On their engaged encounter weekend she felt a strong desire to share this with him. The priest gently invited them to consider attending our Rachel's Vineyard retreat before they got married the following month, and they immediately signed up.

It was so beautiful to see how supportive this young man was of her throughout the weekend. But it was also touching to hear some of his own story. They will have such a beautiful and holy marriage because it is rooted in the love and spirituality that they now share together."

Given the number of couples impacted by abortion, (or will be tempted to abortion when facing an unplanned or complicated pregnancy in their engagement period, or after marriage) it makes good sense to find ways to reach out with the good news of healing in marriage preparation programs.

Encourage those involved with marriage preparation in your faith community to consider the possibility of including abortion healing information and resources in their information packets. This can be done with sensitivity and respect for confidentiality if this is made part of the overall program that all participants learn about.

Remember that in working with individuals that have experienced trauma, everything we offer is a gentle and hope-filled invitation. *Nothing is ever forced*. If we educate couples and make healing resources available to them, we can help them avoid some of the common relational problems that can ultimately end in divorce.

Here is a message you can share with couples in marriage preparation and place in their packets of information:

Be Not Afraid: An Invitation to Healing

Abortion is a sensitive and painful issue for those that have experienced the procedure. It is also a difficult subject for those who may have encouraged or assisted another person to have an abortion. The Church reaches out with love and understanding to you today.

You may be feeling anxious right now just to hear or read about this topic. This is understandable. Try to relax and open your heart to this message, because it is one of hope and healing offered with compassion and concern.

Most individuals struggle with two opposing reactions to their abortion. Usually they want to put the event behind them as quickly as possible and move on with their lives. However, there is an equally powerful need, often unconsciously expressed, to make sense of the experience, find an outlet for their painful and confusing feelings, and discover reconciliation, healing and peace.

This hidden grief can emerge in some of the following symptoms:

Private addictions and compulsions - Fear of Pregnancy - Parenting difficulties – Challenges with intimacy and communication - Anger issues - Extramarital affairs arising out of unhealed grief and shame - Anxiety and depression.


This buried pain that may not surface until the onset of a wanted pregnancy, or may occur when another stressful life event, or relational crisis occurs. Not everyone who has a history of abortion will experience all of these symptoms. However, they may experience a more hidden and private grief that can take away from the fullness of joy, intimacy and love that God wants you to experience in marriage.

There are effective healing programs that will empower you to embrace the challenges and joys of married life with joy and confidence, building a strong, healthy and faith-filled marriage. It is natural that you may be fearful to open this area from your past.


But rest assured the volunteers, counselors and clergy/ministers involved in this ministry understand your pain and loss and will respect your confidentiality. Many of them have experienced abortion and know how scary it can be to take the first step or even think about sharing this secret.

But those that have made the rewarding journey to healing would tell you that it is well worth the effort, and will bring great blessings to your marriage and family life. You will find a brochure in your packets with information on how to find confidential abortion healing programs.

[Learn more about Rivers of Blood/Oceans of Mercy [here](#).]



**"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.
– [Lamentations 3:22-23](#)**



Bishop Cozzens Reflects on Rachel's Vineyard Weekend Experience

Bishop Cozzens gives a beautiful homily to celebrate 20 years of Rachel's Vineyard in the Twin Cities Diocese. Bishop Cozzens worked on a retreat weekend, and reflects on his experience. [The full homily can be found here.](#)




**“How wonderful it is that nobody need wait
a single moment before starting to improve the world.”
– Anne Frank**




Dr. Theresa Burke Interview "Just Ask Janet"

Our founder, Dr. Theresa Burke, recently sat down with Janet Morana, Executive Director of Priests for Life. They discussed Rachel's Vineyard, and how it lead to the development of Grief to Grace, a retreat for healing after abuse. [The full interview can be found here!](#)



**“Kindness is a language
the blind can see
and the deaf can hear”
– Mark Twain**




RV Recommends: “Mother and Child”

This moving song and video was inspired by a women's testimony of her abortion experience.


All proceeds from the song's purchase will benefit maternity homes.

Kayley Bishop—vocals
Dan Young—piano
Yoed Nir—strings

Click here to view: [We hope you are as moved as we were in viewing this beautiful music video.](#)



**“Relying on God has to start all over everyday,
as if nothing has yet been done.”
– C.S. Lewis**



Note from the Pastoral Director

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Along with the retreats that take place each week around the world, it is so great to see the continued intense educational activity that Rachel's Vineyard is privileged to carry out for clergy and other professionals, to increase their ability to heal the wounds of abortion.

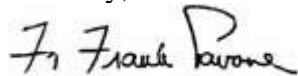
The Diocese of Rapid City, for instance, is having Dr. Theresa Burke conduct a series of online trainings. Moreover, the Catholic Medical Association recently had Theresa speak at the medical "Boot camp" which they sponsor. Medical students learned more about the impact of abortion.

We have also seen support from many Church leaders as, for example, Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone of San Francisco mentioned Rachel's Vineyard in the special pastoral letter he just issued about abortion and the responsibilities of public officials.

And Bishop Richard Spencer of the Military Archdiocese offered a Mass on one of the Rachel's Vineyard retreats recently.

All this is only the tip of the iceberg. What matters most is that the People of God, in numbers beyond counting, are experiencing each day the consolation of God's mercy after the devastation of abortion. Our Rachel's Vineyard teams are making this happen, and we are all grateful!

Sincerely,



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



**"Always, everywhere God is present,
and always He seeks to discover Himself to each one"**

— A.W.Tozer



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



Facebook Fan Page: facebook.com/rachelsvineyard

YouTube: youtube.com/user/rachelsvineyard

Twitter: twitter.com/RVHealing

Pinterest: pinterest.com/rachelsvineyard

Instagram: instagram.com/rvhealing

If you are a Rachel's Vineyard retreat site with graphics, testimonials, or videos that you would like us to share on our social media accounts, please email them to assistant@rachelsvineyard.org

Thank you!!

"If you can't fly then run,
if you can't run then walk,
if you can't walk then crawl,
but whatever you do
you have to keep moving forward."
– Martin Luther King Jr

Upcoming Grief to Grace Retreats

www.GriefftoGrace.org

Phoenix, AZ

Email: Phoenix@griefftoGrace.org

Call: 480-215-6762

July 11-16, 2021

August 11-15, 2021 ***Retreat Held in Spanish*

October 10-15, 2021

March 20-25, 2022

Houston, TX

Email: G2GTexas@GriefftoGrace.org

Call: 866-763-6557

August 28-September 1, 2021

Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN

Email: Diane@griegtograce.org

Call: 612-440-7247

November 12-17, 2021

Lake Charles, LA

Email: griegtogracelouisiana@lcdiocese.org

Call: Marjorie Long – 337-489-2473

Newark, NJ

Email: info@griegtograce.org

Call: 610-203-2002

Beaverton, OR

Email: GriegtGraceOregon@gmail.com

Call: 541-357-7501

Philadelphia, PA

Email: Philadelphia@Griegtograce.Org

Call: 610-427-1187

Call: 610-203-2002

October 24-29, 2021

International:

Perth, Australia

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

Email: perth@griegtograce.org

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

Cote D'Azur, France

Website: 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



“When we long for life without difficulties,
remind us that oaks grow strong in contrary winds
and diamonds are made under pressure.”

– Peter Marshall



Rachel's Vineyard Retreat Weekends July & August

Charlotte, NC

Contact: Jackie Childers 980-241-0251 jackie.childers1@gmail.com

Friday, July 2, 2021

Sunday, July 4, 2021

Ann Arbor, MI

Contact: Beth Bauer 734-879-0427 toheal4give@outlook.com

Friday, July 9, 2021

Sunday, July 11, 2021

Santa Clarita, CA

Contact: Roseanne Becker 661-510-8258 RachelsvineyardSCV@gmail.com

Friday, July 9, 2021

Sunday, July 11, 2021

Tampa, FL

Contact: Zulema Ramirez - Spanish & English 813-924-

4173 projectrachel@ccdosp.org

Friday, July 9, 2021

Sunday, July 11, 2021

Note: Retreat held in Clearwater, FL.

Austin, TX

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

Denomination: Interdenominational

Friday, July 16, 2021

Sunday, July 18, 2021

Cape Town, South Africa

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

Website Address: www.rachelsvineyard.co.za

Language: English

Friday, July 16, 2021

Sunday, July 18, 2021

Melbourne (Interdenominational), VIC, Australia

Contact: Anne Neville (03) 9870 7044 Anne@Neville.org

Website Address: www.opendoors.com.au

Friday, July 16, 2021

Sunday, July 18, 2021

Mesa, AZ

Contact: Karen Ord 480-329-6795 karenord.rv@gmail.com

Friday, July 16, 2021

Sunday, July 18, 2021

Upstate / Greenville, SC

Contact: Christy 803-554-6088 grace4healing@gmail.com

Contact: Kathy 803-546-6010 kcs6010@gmail.com

Friday, July 16, 2021

Sunday, July 18, 2021

Kansas City, MO

Contact: Teresa O'Donnell 1-816-679-4973 rvkcmo@gmail.com

Friday, July 23, 2021

Sunday, July 25, 2021

Cypress/Katy (Interdenom), TX

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

Website Address: www.newheartoftexas.org

Friday, July 30, 2021

Sunday, August 1, 2021

Indianapolis, IN

Contact: Bernadette Roy 317-452-0054

Contact: Maria Hernandez (Spanish) 317-946-3813

Website Address: www.archindy.org/projectrachel

Friday, July 30, 2021

Sunday, August 1, 2021

Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN

Contact: Nancy Blom 763-250-9313 rachels@rvineyardmn.org

Website Address: www.rvineyardmn.org

Friday, July 30, 2021

Sunday, August 1, 2021

Lancaster County, PA

Contact: Becky Biter – English 717-788-4959 undefeatedcourage@gmail.com

Contact: Indhira Garcia – Spanish 717-788-4959 vdryorkpa@gmail.com

Friday, August 6, 2021

Sunday, August 8, 2021

Dallas, TX

Contact: Debbie Kaluza 214 544 2273 healing@racheldallas.org

Website Address: www.racheldallas.org

Friday, August 13, 2021

Sunday, August 15, 2021

Lansing, MI

Contact: Della Seeley 989-289-7872 nlcrachelsvineyard@gmail.com

Friday, August 13, 2021

Sunday, August 15, 2021

Peoria, IL

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

Contact: Lourdes—Spanish 309-210-2519 rvpeoria@gmail.com

Website Address: www.cdop.org/rachels-vineyard

Language: Spanish
Friday, August 13, 2021
Sunday, August 15, 2021

Pittsburgh, PA

Contact: Toni Jester 412-352-5348 toniafj1@comcast.net
Friday, August 13, 2021
Sunday, August 15, 2021

Springfield, IL

Contact: Donna Moore 217-321-1161 dmoore@dio.org
Friday, August 13, 2021
Sunday, August 15, 2021

Yuma, AZ

Contact: Mattie Guzman 928-580-6175 kiowaaz@aol.com
Contact: Susana Godinez 928-261-8322 susymendez44@hotmail.com
Website Address: Amen4life.org
Language: Spanish
Friday, August 13, 2021
Sunday, August 15, 2021

Language: English
Friday, August 27, 2021
Sunday, August 29, 2021

Central Texas (Interdenominational), TX

Contact: Lovette Vassar 254-702-6723 abortionrecovery@hopepc.com
Contact: Susie Wilde 254-718-2823 swilde58@gmail.com
Friday, August 20, 2021
Sunday, August 22, 2021

Jacksonville/St. Augustine, FL

Contact: 904-221-3232 Rachelsvineyardjax@yahoo.com
Contact: Mary Huston 904-885-9959 mtliai@bellsouth.net
Friday, August 20, 2021
Sunday, August 22, 2021

Los Angeles (Español), CA

Contact: Raquel 626-290-8333
Friday, August 20, 2021
Sunday, August 22, 2021

Prescott Valley, AZ

Contact: Diane Duncan 928-308-6859 rvrpvaz@gmail.com
Contact: Nancy 928-713-9504 rvrpvaz@gmail.com
Friday, August 20, 2021
Sunday, August 22, 2021

St. Louis, MO

Contact: Cynthia Haehnel or Mary Varni 314-406-0815 hopehealing@archstl.org
Website Address: archstl.org/hope-healing
Friday, August 20, 2021
Sunday, August 22, 2021

Vancouver, BC, Canada

Contact: Doreen Yung 604-525-0999 info@pacscanada.org

Contact: Michele Smillie 604-683-0281 info@pacscanada.org

Denomination: Interdenominational

Sunday, August 22, 2021

Tuesday, August 24, 2021

Hildesheim, Niedersachsen, Germany

Contact: Anne Arthur amecarthur@yahoo.com

Contact: Christiane Kurpik +49-(0)5121-133761 rachelsweinberg@email.de

Website Address: www.rachelsweinberg.de

Language: German

Friday, August 27, 2021

Sunday, August 29, 2021

Note: Retreat held in Weinheim

Lubbock, TX

Contact: Mindy Yarbrough 806-702-2284 rios2000us@yahoo.com

Language: Spanish

Friday, August 27, 2021

Sunday, August 29, 2021

Mexico City, MX

Contact: Maria Esther 52603178 me.cardoso@irma.org.mx

Contact: Maria Esther Cardoso 52-60-31-78 ayuda@irma.org.mx

Website Address: www.irma.org.mx

Language: Spanish

Friday, August 27, 2021

Sunday, August 29, 2021

San Jose/Greater South Bay (Interdenominational), CA

Contact: Becky Morales 408-229-9836 becky@realoptions.net

Contact: Jenn Gonzalez - Spanish Contact 408-650-

7187 jenn@realoptions.net

Website Address: www.realoptions.net/hope

Language: Spanish

Friday, August 27, 2021

Sunday, August 29, 2021

Santa Clara & Alameda Counties (Interdenom), CA

Contact: Becky Morales 408-229-9836 becky@realoptions.net

Contact: Jenn Gonzalez - Spanish Contact 408-650-

7187 jenn@realoptions.net

Website Address: www.realoptions.net/hope

Language: Spanish

Friday, August 27, 2021

Sunday, August 29, 2021

Santa Cruz Valley (Interdenominational), CA

Contact: Becky Morales 408-229-9836 becky@realoptions.net

Contact: Jenn Gonzalez - Spanish Contact 408-650-

7187 jenn@realoptions.net

Website Address: www.realoptions.net/hope

Language: Spanish

Friday, August 27, 2021
Sunday, August 29, 2021

Trenton, NJ

Contact: Judy Warenkiewicz 732-536-6871 judywarren543@msn.com
Friday, August 27, 2021
Sunday, August 29, 2021

Yuma, AZ

Contact: Mattie Guzman 928-580-6175 kiowaaz@aol.com
Contact: Susana Godinez 928-261-8322 susymendez44@hotmail.com
Website Address: Amen4life.org
Language: Spanish
Friday, August 13, 2021
Sunday, August 15, 2021

Language: English
Denomination: Catholic
Friday, August 27, 2021
Sunday, August 29, 2021

