



# Vine & Branches

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

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June 2023

## Healing and Forgiveness, an Ongoing Journey

Hello,

My name is Darlene and I have been on a Rachel's Vineyard retreat and am currently now on team. I wanted to reflect on healing and forgiveness, but especially forgiving ourselves and the people involved in our abortion.

Before I went on retreat, I continued to regularly attend church, receive the sacraments and deepen my intimate relationship with God. We are all on our own personal faith journey with the Holy Trinity. I thought I was healed of my abortion. However, when I went on retreat, there was more additional healing and forgiveness that needed to be done.

When I reflect on my healing journey of forgiveness, I realize that God was speaking to my heart and soul. It's funny that we think that we are ok and that we are in control. However, God is in control and He knows what is best for us because He is our loving Father "Abba". God wanted me to go on retreat because I needed to let go and fully heal and forgive myself and the other's that were involved in my abortion.

Healing and forgiveness for me has many layers. It is a coping mechanism on how we suppress trauma in our lives. Our abortion is a traumatic experience. We tuck it way deep inside of us but it eventually finds a way and bubbles up. Sometimes, especially in the past for me, it comes out in destructive behaviors to punish myself. I thought because of my mortal sin of abortion I was not worthy of love and forgiveness from God. You see this is the evil one trying to separate us from our relationship with God.


God is so patient with us. I tell you this to be patient with yourself. Be open with your mind heart and soul to God's unconditional love, mercy and forgiveness. God has many graces and blessing's He wants to bestow on each and everyone of you. Jesus only wants you to spend time with Him. Jesus thirsts for each and everyone of you! When we let go and abandon ourselves to the Holy Trinity it is so beautiful, peaceful and joyful.

Be kind to yourself and patient. Find time each day for prayer with God. Know that healing and forgiveness is a process. You are all courageous women and men because your identity and inheritance is that your all children of God. We are bothers and sisters of Christ in the Vineyard. God is using each and everyone of us to bring His children back into His loving arms. Be open to God's will to be a


vessel to share His word, mercy and unconditional love with others. We do this all for the glory of God. We need to tend our gardens by going to confession, Mass and receiving the Eucharist. All these sacred sacraments that God has graciously given us continue to nourish and strengthen our relationship with God and each other.

The Holy Trinity: the Father, Son and Holy Spirit gives us our healing and forgiveness for ourselves and others. God is love and God shares His love with us. God shows us how to love selflessly and unconditionally. Let us spread God's love to each other and especially to our enemies.

Love and Blessings  
Darlene



**“Keep your face  
always toward the sunshine,  
and shadows will fall behind you.”  
~ Walt Whitman**



## **Dr. Theresa Burke on the Pro-Life Impact Show!**


Join hosts Karen Garnett and Brett Attebery as they welcome **Theresa Burke, Ph.D., Founder of Rachel's Vineyard Ministries**, to *The National Prayer Luncheon for Life Pro-Life Impact Show!* Hear the amazing stories of these beautiful healing ministries' origins and expansion.

In 1986, Dr. Burke started one of the first therapeutic support groups for women who had experienced the trauma of abortion after founding The Center for Post-Abortion Healing. *Rachel's Vineyard: A Psychological and Spiritual Journey for Post-Abortion Healing* was then published in 1994: a unique support group model for counselors, offering a very concrete, emotional experience for women who were grieving the loss of their aborted children.


In 1995, Dr. Burke adapted and expanded the curriculum into a format for weekend retreats. Soon individuals seeking healing began to travel from other states to experience this very effective, sensorial healing process. Rachel's Vineyard has now grown to over **1000 retreats annually – for women and men – offered by 375 sites in 49 states and 70 countries!**

Dr. Burke has additionally created the weeklong **Grief to Grace** healing program for victims of sexual abuse, as well as the **Duty to Heal** program for the military community – each with tremendous impact. We could not begin to adequately thank Dr. Burke and her teams for their **decades of work** in these critical healing ministries – because **“Everyone Deserves to Heal!”** We pray you will be equally blessed by this inspiring conversation!

**\*\*To watch the [full interview, click here!!](#)**



“Only those who will risk  
going too far  
can possibly find out  
how far one can go.”  
~ T.S. Eliot



## **New Study Confirms the Negative Impact of Abortion on Men-New Resources to Raise Awareness and Promote Healing for Men**

By Kevin Burke, LSW

The month of June, with our national celebration of Father’s Day, provides an excellent opportunity to focus on the impact of abortion on fathers.

The Silent No More Awareness Campaign shares the following resources so you can join us in promoting awareness and healing resources for men.

- **Just ask Janet: Men Regret Lost Fatherhood**

SNMAC Co-Founder Janet Morana interviews Kevin Burke and Fr. Ben Cameron, of the Fathers of Mercy and Rachel’s Vineyard Kentucky. Kevin and Fr Ben share how losing a child to abortion impacts fathers and how they can find healing.

- **A New Study Shows That Men Are Adversely Affected by Abortion** - By Michael J. New

*Support After Abortion* commissioned a national survey of 1,000 men over the age of 18. Of those, 100 men met the criteria of having experienced an abortion at some time and were willing to participate in the survey...

The most important finding from the study was that men are negatively impacted by abortion. The study found that 71 percent of men said they experienced an adverse change in themselves after their abortion losses. Interestingly, pro-life men were more likely to say they experienced an adverse change.

However, the results indicate that around 60 percent of men who identified as “pro-choice” felt they were adversely affected by the abortion. Furthermore, after the abortion 51 percent of men sought help, and an additional 31 percent did not seek help but felt that help could have been beneficial.

[Read full article here.](#)

- You can find special prayers, testimonies, articles and other resources for men wounded by abortion on the [June Shockwaves page](#) of the Silent No More Awareness Campaign



“We must accept finite disappointment,  
but never lose infinite hope.”



## 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.



## The Air She Breathes

Joyful. That’s the first thing you notice about Rose Romant Todd. She has a welcoming voice, beautiful smile, and encouraging words whenever you speak with her. Her faith is the air that she breathes, and she boldly proclaims how good her “Daddy God” is. It would be easy to think she acquired such a gift from an idyllic childhood.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

The oldest of nine children, Rose was born in Louisiana and raised by her grandparents. Her grandmother was a faith-filled woman who, as President of the Ladies’ Aid at her church, spent a fair amount of time taking care of people. Unfortunately, when Rose told her grandmother that she was being abused by a close relative, her grandmother accused her of lying.

Despite the obvious pain the abuse created in her life, she was blessed to have two wonderful teachers who profoundly impacted her life. Ms. Octavia, her first-grade teacher, was “a classy lady who treated everybody the same,” Rose states. “She would talk to you and make everything right. She was beautiful.” Ms. Dolores, Rose’s ninth-grade teacher, took the time to stay after school to help her learn algebra. “She would say, ‘If you can stay, I’ll stay.’” Their kindness and compassion was so significant, Rose kept in touch with both of them until they passed away decades later.

Eventually, Rose moved to California to help her uncle who was having health issues. It was in the Bay Area sunshine that a friend told her about Rachel’s Vineyard. She was determined to go, and the name of the retreat site, Three Rivers, sounded wonderfully serene. As she drove to the retreat Friday night, she saw hills and mountains in the distance. “I’m from the flatlands,” she says with a laugh. “I don’t like hills and mountains.” The thought of driving through it to get to the retreat was “intimidating,” but she kept driving forward. She didn’t turn back.

That’s another way you could describe Rose. While she maintains friendships for life, she’s always moving ahead.

Since 2011, she’s been the leader for the interdenominational team in Fairfield, California – and she’s continually amazed by the transformation she sees from Friday to Sunday. “You go in one way, and you come out a different person,” she says. She remembers one woman in particular, who didn’t think the weekend was going to help her. But she was desperate, so she went. On Sunday, one of the Leaders asked Rose, “Who’s that?”

“It’s Marsha,” Rose replied.

“No it’s not.”

“Yes, it is.”

Marsha<sup>[1]</sup> had done her hair and put on make-up; she, indeed, was a different woman.

“That’s what God does,” Rose states emphatically.

He helped her through her childhood and the loss of her husband 12 years ago. He’s been with her for two decades while she’s volunteered at various Kairos weekend retreats. And He inspires her as she guides the Fairfield team. “Everyone on the team is treated the same,” she says. “And if there are problems, we nip them in the bud.”

Like the women she admired growing up, Rose spends a lot of her time caring for others, giving them encouraging words in difficult moments, and staying at their side when they need help. She’s also involved in the prayer team at her church, praying for and *with* others. That comes naturally to her. After all, “Daddy God” is in the air she breathes, and she can’t wait to see what He does next.

Do You Know the Answer?

Can you guess what job put Rose Romant Todd on a list of “firsts?” (the answer is below the photos!)



At RV on Saturday night, after choosing their babies, we place them a blanket and give them to the mothers



Rose at a 40 Days for Life Celebration

**\*\*Answer:** Rose Romant Todd was the first black woman Deputy Sheriff in her Louisiana Parish.

[\[1\]](#) *The retreatant's name has been changed to protect her anonymity.*

**“The two most important days in your life  
are the day you are born  
and the day you figure out why.”  
~ Mark Twain**

## **United in Prayer**

Please pray for Kay Corcoran (RV site leader in Joliet/Lemont, IL) and her family, as they have recently suffered the loss of Kays loving husband. We pray for peace for Kay and her family as they go through this difficult time.

Please pray for Bernadette Goulding, who recently lost her beloved husband Duncan. For those who do not know Bernadette, she has been instrumental in the growth of Rachel's Vineyard. Beginning in Ireland, and spreading to The Faroe Islands, England, Beirut/Lebanon, and many other sites across Europe. She has sacrificed time and time again to travel to those in need, provide training, and assist new retreat sites as they start their journey in the vineyard. We pray for Bernadette and her family--we pray for strength, and comfort in the memories they share of Duncan.



To all of our June  
birthdays--we wish  
you a happy, healthy,  
and blessed year  
ahead!



**"He will swallow up death forever.  
The sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces;  
He will remove the disgrace of his people  
from all the earth. The Lord has spoken."  
~ Isaiah 25:8**




**Connect with us!!  
RV Social Media**

*✦ Daily Motivation ✦*


"At that moment, I could, with a grateful heart, say thank you to God: Thank you for allowing the hurt to be healed for making something good of the mess I had created. Thank you for each and every person who had come into my life." *Joy*

Your hurt can be healed. Your mess can be transformed into something good.  
Call 1.877.HOPE4ME or visit [RachelsVineyard.org](http://RachelsVineyard.org)  
#AbortionRecoveryAwareness

Facebook: [Facebook.com/RachelsVineyard](https://www.facebook.com/RachelsVineyard)  
Instagram: [Instagram.com/rvhealing](https://www.instagram.com/rvhealing)  
Twitter: [Twitter.com/RVHealing](https://twitter.com/RVHealing)  
Youtube: [Youtube.com/user/RachelsVineyard](https://www.youtube.com/user/RachelsVineyard)



**“Some people *want* it to happen,  
some *wish* it would happen,  
others *make* it happen.”  
~ Michael Jordan**



**Grief to Grace Retreats**  
**Healing the Wounds of Abuse**  
**Reclaiming the Gift of Human Dignity**

**Houston, TX**

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

Call: 866-763-6557

September 9-14, 2023

November 4-9, 2023

**Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN**

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

Call: 612-440-7247

August 15-20, 2023

**Detroit, MI**

Email: [vnmary2@icloud.com](mailto:vnmary2@icloud.com)

Call: 313-346-6070

**Phoenix, AZ**

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

Call: 480-215-6762

July 9-14, 2023

**Oceanside, CA**

Email: [grief2grace.tps@gmail.com](mailto:grief2grace.tps@gmail.com)

Call: 951-234-5053

August 29-September 2, 2023

**Philadelphia, PA**

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

Call: 610-427-1187

Call: 610-203-2002

October 8-October 13, 2023

**Lake Charles, LA**

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

Call: Marjorie Long – 337-489-2473

September 26-30, 2023

**Tulsa, OK**



Email: [healing@cceok.org](mailto:healing@cceok.org)

Call: 918-508-7122

April 14-19, 2024

INTERNATIONAL:

**Buenos Aires, Argentina**

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

Call: +54 11 5220 3619

September 13-17, 2023

**Kelowna, Canada**

Email: [G2GKelowna@gmail.com](mailto:G2GKelowna@gmail.com)

Call: 250-255-7223

**LSI, France**

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

Email: [g2g.lsi.france@gmail.com](mailto:g2g.lsi.france@gmail.com)

Call: +33 6 09 39 79 27

June 5-10, 2023

**Glasgow, Scotland**

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

Call: 020 8154 2719

June 26-July 1, 2023

**London, UK**

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

Call: +44 208 154 2719

July 9-14, 2023

September 18-23, 2023

November 20-25, 2023

**El Salvador, Central America**

Email: [Anajhill@hotmail.com](mailto:Anajhill@hotmail.com)

Call: Ana Julia Hill – 503-772-97-721

Call: Nueva Alianza – 503-229-87-000

**Malopolska, Poland**

Email: [a.t.pecak@gmail.com](mailto:a.t.pecak@gmail.com)

Call: +48605-335507

**Barcelona, Catalonia Spain**

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

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

Call: Noemi Venegas +34 686-487-031

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

**Slovenia**

Email: [tomaz.mikus@gmail.com](mailto:tomaz.mikus@gmail.com)

Call: +386-64-178-014

[www.odbolecinekmilosti.si](http://www.odbolecinekmilosti.si)

July 26-30, 2023



“The most difficult thing is the decision to act,  
the rest is merely tenacity.”

~ Amelia Earhart



## **Rachel's Vineyard Retreat Weekends June & July**

### **El Paso, TX**

Contact: Silvia Carrasco (Español) 915-383-

4602 Elvinedoderaquel915@gmail.com

Contact: Diana Villanueva 915-229-

6594 rachelsvineyardelpaso@gmail.com

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

Friday, June 9, 2023

Sunday, June 11, 2023

### **Los Angeles (Español), CA**

Contact: Raquel 626-290-8333

Friday, June 9, 2023

Sunday, June 11, 2023

### **Vancouver, BC, Canada**

Contact: Doreen Yung 604-525-0999 [info@pacscanada.org](mailto:info@pacscanada.org)

Contact: Michele Smillie 604-683-0281 [info@pacscanada.org](mailto:info@pacscanada.org)

Friday, June 9, 2023

Sunday, June 11, 2023

### **Atlanta, GA**

Contact: Liz Youngs 404-717-5557 [programdirector@pathatl.com](mailto:programdirector@pathatl.com)

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

Friday, June 16, 2023

Sunday, June 18, 2023

### **Austin, TX**

Contact: Sheryle Knorre 512-876-8049 [sheryle@healedinmercy.org](mailto:sheryle@healedinmercy.org)

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

Denomination: Interdenominational

Friday, June 16, 2023

Sunday, June 18, 2023

Language: English

Denomination: Interdenominational

Friday, July 14, 2023

Sunday, July 16, 2023

### **Medellin, Colombia**

Contact: Margarita Agudelo 316-657-8585 [entretusmanos33@gmail.com](mailto:entretusmanos33@gmail.com)

Language: Spanish

Denomination: Catholic

Friday, June 16, 2023

Sunday, June 18, 2023

**Springfield, IL**

Contact: Donna Moore 217-321-1161 dmoore@dio.org

Friday, June 16, 2023

Sunday, June 18, 2023

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

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

Website Address: www.newheartoftexas.org

Friday, June 23, 2023

Sunday, June 25, 2023

Language: English

Denomination: Interdenominational

Thursday, July 20, 2023

Saturday, July 22, 2023

**Dallas (Español), TX**

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

Website Address: www.racheldallas.org

Friday, June 23, 2023

Sunday, June 25, 2023

**Detroit (Español/Interdenom), MI**

Contact: Marine (313) 926-9334 Elvinedoderaqueldetroit@gmail.com

Contact: Alejandra (248) 840-3376 Elvinedoderaqueldetroit@gmail.com

Friday, June 23, 2023

Sunday, June 25, 2023

**Greater Boston Area, NH**

Contact: Susan Clifton (603) 315-6971 rvofgreaterboston@gmail.com

Denomination: Interdenominational

Friday, June 23, 2023

Sunday, June 25, 2023

**Greater Boston Area, MA**

Contact: Susan Clifton (603) 315-6971 rvofgreaterboston@gmail.com

Denomination: Interdenominational

Friday, June 23, 2023

Sunday, June 25, 2023

**San Francisco Bay Area (Interdenominational), CA**

Contact: Becky Morales 408-444-5472 becky@realoptions.net

Website Address: realoptions.net/after-abortion-support/

Friday, June 23, 2023

Sunday, June 25, 2023

**Santa Clara & Alameda Counties (Interdenom), CA**

Contact: Becky Morales 408-444-5472 becky@realoptions.net

Website Address: www.realoptions.net/hope

Friday, June 23, 2023

Sunday, June 25, 2023

**Santa Cruz Valley (Interdenominational), CA**

Contact: Ana Tápanes Santo 787-462-0497 Vinedoderaquesdepuertorico@gmail.com  
Contact: Becky Morales 408-444-5472 becky@realoptions.net  
Website Address: www.realoptions.net/hope  
Friday, June 23, 2023  
Sunday, June 25, 2023

### **South Bay (Interdenominational), CA**

Contact: Ana Tápanes Santo 787-462-0497 Vinedoderaquesdepuertorico@gmail.com  
Contact: Becky Morales 408-444-5472 becky@realoptions.net  
Website Address: www.realoptions.net/hope  
Friday, June 23, 2023  
Sunday, June 25, 2023

### **Tapachula, Chiapas**

Contact: Monica Camacho +52 962 695 5539 familiayvidadiotap@gmail.com  
Language: Spanish  
Friday, June 23, 2023  
Sunday, June 25, 2023

### **Ljubljana, Slovenia**

Contact: Fr. Tomaž Mikuš SJ 00386 (0)64 178 014 rahelinvinograd@gmail.com  
Contact: Katarina 00386 69 621 009 katarina@rahelinvinograd.si  
Website Address: https://rahelinvinograd.si  
Language: Slovenian  
Friday, June 30, 2023  
Sunday, July 2, 2023

### **Vienna, Austria**

Contact: Claudia Schneidenbach (+43) 0699-1021-4241 info@rachelsweinberg.at  
Language: German  
Friday, June 30, 2023  
Sunday, July 2, 2023

### **Bogotá, Colombia**

Contact: Myriam Fernandez 312-406-7127 miryamf52@gmail.com  
Language: Spanish  
Saturday, July 1, 2023  
Monday, July 3, 2023

### **Ann Arbor, MI**

Contact: Beth Bauer call/text (734) 879-0427 toheal4give@outlook.com  
Friday, July 7, 2023  
Sunday, July 9, 2023

### **Midland, TX**

Contact: Madeline Medrano 432-897-4788 projectrachel@sanangelodiocese.org  
Contact: Madeline Medrano 432-236-9883  
Friday, July 7, 2023  
Sunday, July 9, 2023

*Note: Please call any of the phone numbers above for more information*

**Naguabo, PR**

Contact: Patricia Ortiz Rosario 787-398-6591 ortiz\_patricia17@yahoo.com  
Language: Spanish  
Friday, July 7, 2023  
Sunday, July 9, 2023

**Bogotá, Colombia**

Contact: Martha Elena Soto Rojas 315  
8111118 direccion@derechoanacer.org  
Language: Spanish  
Friday, July 14, 2023  
Sunday, July 16, 2023

**Cajicá, Colombia**

Contact: Sandra Zamora 310-580-  
7319 vinedo.pasosporamor@gmail.com  
Language: Spanish  
Friday, July 14, 2023  
Sunday, July 16, 2023

**Orlando, FL**

Contact: Carmen Claypoole: English & Spanish 407-222-  
8584 projectrachel@cflcc.org  
Language: Spanish  
Friday, July 14, 2023  
Sunday, July 16, 2023

**Bogotá, Colombia**

Contact: Fanny Ester Jiménez Marzal +57  
3105560662 fajimar69@gmail.com  
Contact: Luz Marina Pedreros +57 320  
4856724 vinedodiocesisengativa@gmail.com  
Language: Spanish  
Friday, July 21, 2023  
Sunday, July 23, 2023

**Miraflores, LM, Peru**

Contact: Yanina Diaz Martell 51 997225419 yanidima@gmail.com  
Website Address: <http://www.elvinedoderaquel.org/weekend/sites.aspx>  
Retreat Location: Gral. Suarez 259 - Miraflores (espalda cdra. 54 Petit Thouars)  
Language: Spanish  
Friday, July 21, 2023  
Sunday, July 23, 2023

**Phoenix/Mesa, AZ**

Contact: Karen Ord 480-329-6795 karenord.rv@gmail.com  
Website Address: [www.sttimothymesa.org/rachels-vineyard](http://www.sttimothymesa.org/rachels-vineyard)  
Friday, July 21, 2023  
Sunday, July 23, 2023

**Indianapolis, IN**

Contact: Bernadette Roy 317-650-2920  
Contact: Maria Hernandez (Spanish) 317-946-3813  
Website Address: [www.archindy.org/projectrachel](http://www.archindy.org/projectrachel)

Friday, July 28, 2023  
Sunday, July 30, 2023

**Santa Clarita, CA**

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

Friday, July 28, 2023  
Sunday, July 30, 2023

