



# Vine & Branches

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

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May 2021

Coming soon...

## The Launch of the new Rachel's Vineyard Website!

We are very excited to announce that our **new website** will be launching **this month!**

We are keeping all the features you know and love, but have added a more streamlined look and feel!

The new website features a welcome video from our founder, Dr. Theresa Burke.

There will also be individual welcome videos from our Rachel's Vineyard teams around the world.

We hope that some of the changes we've made will make it easier for those in need to find healing.

Be on the lookout for an email once the website has been officially launched!



## Turn to Christ to Find Healing, & Hope

By Nancy Murray

Pope Francis' recent call for mercy and forgiveness for women who have had an abortion has many people wondering at this seeming change of Catholic church policy.

But as someone who has personally experienced the lasting grief and regret of abortion and also found healing and hope through the church, I can assure you that Pope Francis is simply renewing the same message of mercy that the

church has always offered: a message of repentance, confession of sins and restoration.

The new start that Catholics are blessed with each time we confess our sins is just the beginning of the divine mercy of Christ that flows from his church. But sin has consequences, and the consequence of abortion is the loss of your child.

When that truth becomes clear, the hidden grief and haunting regret of abortion can wreak havoc in a woman's heart and soul. The day of that loss is often burned into the memory, while unrecognized trauma may lead to mental, emotional and physical problems.

In my case, although I had been forgiven, the wound in my heart remained, so I was deeply moved when I read "The Gospel of Life" by Pope John Paul II and found a message that spoke directly to me:

"I would now like to say a special word to women who have had an abortion. The Church is aware of the many factors which may have influenced your ... painful and even shattering decision. The wound in your heart may not yet have healed. Certainly what happened was ... terribly wrong. But do not give in to discouragement and do not lose hope ... give yourselves over with humility and trust to repentance. The Father of mercies is ready to give you his forgiveness and his peace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. To the same merciful Father you can with sure hope entrust your child. ... As a result of your own painful experience, you can be among the most eloquent defenders of everyone's right to life."

To know that the church and the pope recognized the wounds of abortion and were reaching out to women who suffered silently meant so much to me. I hope that, in the same way, women who hear Pope Francis's invitation will respond, and many who felt they could never confess the sin of abortion will overcome their fears and find grace, healing, and forgiveness.

A few years after reading the pope's message, I learned about Rachel's Vineyard Retreats, a Catholic and Interdenominational Christian post-abortion healing ministry. I attended a retreat and experienced profound healing and peace. These weekend retreats, available worldwide, provide a small group setting with others who grieve an abortion: a time to share our sorrow, encounter God's mercy through scriptural exercises, and receive spiritual and psychological counsel.

Knowing the importance of overcoming the traumatic effects of abortion and wanting others to find the same healing as I had, I later volunteered with Rachel's Vineyard Retreats. Then in 2010, I developed The Healing Light Retreat, a day-long Catholic retreat based on the same principals. I encourage anyone who grieves an abortion to take time for a healing retreat.

Don't be afraid to turn to Jesus and let him heal the wound in your heart.

\*\*Article originally posted by the [Tri-City Herald](#) .



**Do not be afraid, for I am with you.  
Do not be discouraged, for I am your God.  
I will strengthen you and help you.  
I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.  
~ Isaiah 41:10**



## **The Poison Apple in the Garden of Choice**

**By Kevin Burke, LSW**

Lifenews [reports](#) that on April 12<sup>th</sup>, Joe Biden's administration issued a temporary halt to health and safety regulations on abortion drugs. Abortion facilities can now sell these dangerous chemicals directly through the mail without ever seeing the woman in person.

In this excerpt from our book [Rivers of Blood/Oceans of Mercy](#), we look at the potential for serious emotional and physical trauma associated with "at home abortions."

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In March 2016 the FDA approved the use of the abortion pill, Mifepristone for women up to 10 weeks pregnant. Close to 40% percent of abortions in the United States are chemical abortions and this number will likely continue to rise.

Couples often rationalize that the abortion pill merely initiates an early miscarriage. They are tempted to see the pills as an easier solution than a medical procedure at the abortion center. However the actual experience of the abortion pill can be a shocking and traumatic event.

A woman shares her experience:

*"I was 6 weeks pregnant and after an extended period of severe cramping the child was delivered in our bathroom. My partner had to fish the tiny child out of the toilet."*

The father buried their child in their back yard. He frequently visited the "grave site" as he struggled to process the grief and trauma of that event. They found significant emotional and spiritual healing of that experience by attending a [Rachel's Vineyard weekend](#), but they remain wounded by that abortion individually, and as a couple.

Counselor Cullen Herout shares about the psychological and physical trauma associated with chemical abortion in the home:

*"...if we acknowledge that some women experience traumatic responses to abortion, it is equally vital to acknowledge that with a medical abortion, the locus of that trauma moves from a surgical center to the woman's home... Sensory stimuli associated with the traumatic experience might trigger acute*

*anxiety, disturbing mental images or other negative sensory flashbacks. Sometimes these triggers happen consciously, and sometimes they do not. But if a woman has a negative abortion experience, she is likely to develop negative thoughts and emotions that can be triggered by any reminders of that experience.*

*If the locus of a negative abortion experience is a surgical center, it is less difficult to avoid triggers that might elicit negative thoughts or emotions. If driving by the abortion clinic on the way home from work brings anxiety, it is easy to take a different route home. If reminders of the sound of the abortion machine bring a sense of panic, it is easy to escape a situation and move oneself to a different location.*

*We need to increase our efforts to educate the public about the reality of chemical abortion. Women and their partners need to understand the psychological risks of at-home abortions and the likely individual and relational impact of labor and delivery of early pregnancies in the home. – **Crisis Magazine** [u](#)*

Life News reports on the medical risks associated with the abortion pill:

“A 2009 study [“Immediate Complications After Medical Compared With Surgical Termination of Pregnancy,”](#) in Obstetrics and Gynecology found a complication rate of approximately 20 percent for the abortion drugs compared to 5.6 percent for surgical abortions. Hemorrhages and incomplete abortions were among the most common complications.”

\*Read the full Life News article [here](#).

\*\*Learn more about the book [Rivers of Blood/Oceans of Mercy](#).

#### **\*Original Music Video by Kevin Burke\***

A young couple falls deeply in love. After dating for a number of years they face an unplanned pregnancy and decide to have an abortion.

The relationship ends a few months after the procedure.

Years later the couple reconnects via social media.

[This is their story.](#)



**"How wonderful it is that  
nobody need wait a single moment  
before starting to improve the world."**

**~ Anne Frank**



### **Message from the Pastoral Director**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I want to share with our Rachel's Vineyard Family today an update on a surgery I am scheduled to have on May 11th.

In the course of my routine annual physical exam recently, my doctor found evidence of “mitral valve regurgitation,” whereby a valve in the heart leaks some of the blood back into the chamber from which it came.

Subsequently, my cardiologist confirmed that there is damage to the valve (called “flail leaflet”) that needs to be repaired. This is due to a congenital condition.

I would have never known this, because I feel great and have no symptoms whatsoever.

But the valve needs to be repaired, lest it cause further damage. The prognosis is excellent; once the surgery and several weeks of recovery are complete, I am expected to resume the full range of my normal activities.

Even through the weeks of my recovery, I’ll be communicating regularly with my team and with you. To use an apt analogy, Priests for Life will not skip a beat.

You’ll be able to find updates at [FrFrankPavone.org](http://FrFrankPavone.org) and on all my social media accounts.

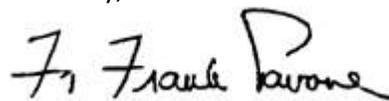
I am happy to share with you this statement from my cardiologist.

**Statement from Dr. Brian K Dublin, M.D.**

**Father Pavone has mitral valve disease that will require surgical repair. He is tentatively scheduled for a mitral valve repair with an expert cardiothoracic surgeon. The technique for the surgery has been refined over decades and he is expected to make a full recovery. Eventually his functional capacity should improve above his current baseline.**

Thanks in advance for all the prayers and good wishes, and for being part of the Rachel’s Vineyard/Priests for Life Family!

Sincerely,



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



**"Success is not final,  
failure is not fatal:  
it is the courage to continue  
that counts."  
~ Winston Churchill**



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

**You are not  
alone.  
Find support,  
hope, and  
healing after  
abortion at  
Rachel's  
Vineyard.**



RachelsVineyard.org  
1.877.HOPE.4.ME

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: [instagram.com/rvhealing](https://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](mailto:assistant@rachelsvineyard.org)\*\***

Thank you!!

**"I alone cannot change the world,  
but I can cast a stone across the water  
to create many ripples."**

**~ St. Teresa of Calcutta**

## **United in Prayer**

Please keep all of our **Rachel's Vineyard and Grief to Grace retreat sites** in your prayers. Many of our teams are resuming their retreats (after having to post-pone during Covid) while keeping in mind all of the safety suggestions from the CDC. Pray they the teams and participants are able to navigate this peacefully and healthily. Pray that God continues to work miracles in the lives of all those who are present on the retreats.

**"Look for Christ  
and you will find him.  
And with him,  
everything else."**



## 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

July 11-16, 2021

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

October 10-15, 2021

### 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@GriefftoGrace.Org](mailto:Philadelphia@GriefftoGrace.Org)

Call: 610-427-1187

Call: 610-203-2002

October 24-29, 2021

International:

### Perth, Australia

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

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

Call: Ana Julia Hill – 503-772-97-721

Call: Nueva Alianza – 503-229-87-000

#### **Kelowna, Canada**

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

Call: 250-878-7603

#### **London, UK**

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

Call: +44-207-937-4297

Call: +44-07484-248-799

#### **Slovenia**

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



## **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.
- 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.](#)



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

~ Thomas Edison



## Rachel's Vineyard Retreat Weekends May & June

**Hildesheim, Niedersachsen, Germany**

Website Address: [www.rachelsweinberg.de](http://www.rachelsweinberg.de)

Contact: Anne Arthur [amecarthur@yahoo.com](mailto:amecarthur@yahoo.com)

Contact: Christiane Kurpik +49-(0)5121-

133761 [rachelsweinberg@email.de](mailto:rachelsweinberg@email.de)

Language: German

Friday, April 30, 2021

Sunday, May 2, 2021

*Note: Retreat held in Weinheim*

**Houston, TX**

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

Contact: Cindy 713-825-0649 [cindy@rvhouston.org](mailto:cindy@rvhouston.org)

Contact: Julie Fritsch 713-741-8728 [jkfritsch@archgh.org](mailto:jkfritsch@archgh.org)

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

Language: Spanish

Friday, April 30, 2021

Sunday, May 2, 2021

**Mesa, AZ**

Contact: Karen Ord 480-329-6795 [karenord.rv@gmail.com](mailto:karenord.rv@gmail.com)

Friday, April 30, 2021

Sunday, May 2, 2021

**Sioux Falls, SD**

Contact: Margi Culhane 1-800-700-7867 [mculhane@sfcatholic.org](mailto:mculhane@sfcatholic.org)

Contact: Mary Weber 605-988-3775

Friday, April 30, 2021

Sunday, May 2, 2021

**Sydney, NSW, Australia**

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

Contact: Marg [rachelsvineyardaus@gmail.com](mailto:rachelsvineyardaus@gmail.com)

Friday, April 30, 2021

Sunday, May 2, 2021

**Tulsa, OK**

Website Address: [www.cceok.org/healing-after-abortion](http://www.cceok.org/healing-after-abortion)

Contact: Kevin 918-884-4536 [counseling@cceok.org](mailto:counseling@cceok.org)

Contact: Spanish – Clara 918-902-6687

Friday, April 30, 2021

Sunday, May 2, 2021

**Cache Creek, BC, Canada**

Contact: Nancy Hadden 250-267-5081 [rvkamloops@yahoo.ca](mailto:rvkamloops@yahoo.ca)

Wednesday, May 5, 2021

Friday, May 7, 2021

**Vienna (Interdenominational), Austria**

Contact: Tara Harbeck +43-677-6208-2796 [beckharat@alkyon.net](mailto:beckharat@alkyon.net)

Language: German

Friday, May 7, 2021

Sunday, May 9, 2021

**Albany Area, NY**

Contact: Mrs. Pat Mousaw 518-222-1160 [Rachelsvineyardalbany@yahoo.com](mailto:Rachelsvineyardalbany@yahoo.com)

Contact: Kathy Kelly 802-282-2028

Contact: Katie Bolibaugh 518-495-3574 [Rachelsvineyardalbany@yahoo.com](mailto:Rachelsvineyardalbany@yahoo.com)

Friday, May 14, 2021

Sunday, May 16, 2021

**Charleston, SC**

Contact: Christy 803-554-6088 [grace4healing@gmail.com](mailto:grace4healing@gmail.com)

Contact: Kathy 803-546-6010 [kcs6010@gmail.com](mailto:kcs6010@gmail.com)

Friday, May 14, 2021

Sunday, May 16, 2021

**Lake Geneva (Interdenominational), WI**

Website Address: [www.twentythree61.com](http://www.twentythree61.com)

Contact: Women contact Amber Culverhouse 262-325-1970 [littlestue123@yahoo.com](mailto:littlestue123@yahoo.com)

Contact: Men contact Alex Chobanian 262-989-6553 [alexchobanian@gmail.com](mailto:alexchobanian@gmail.com)

Contact: Donna Brendel 262-620-3608 [donnajane2361@gmail.com](mailto:donnajane2361@gmail.com)

Contact: Para Español llamada Laura Brown 414-975-2270 [lsbs2p@gmail.com](mailto:lsbs2p@gmail.com)

Language: Spanish

Friday, May 14, 2021

Sunday, May 16, 2021

#### **Lancaster County, PA**

Contact: Becky Biter – English 717-788-4959 [undefeatedcourage@gmail.com](mailto:undefeatedcourage@gmail.com)

Contact: Indhira Garcia – Spanish 717-788-4959 [vdryorkpa@gmail.com](mailto:vdryorkpa@gmail.com)

Friday, May 14, 2021

Sunday, May 16, 2021

#### **Tai-Shan, New Taipei City, Taiwan**

Contact: Georgie 02-27290265

Contact: Georgie Hsieh 0933426608 [georgiehsieh@yahoo.com.tw](mailto:georgiehsieh@yahoo.com.tw)

Language: Mandarin

Friday, May 14, 2021

Sunday, May 16, 2021

#### **Jacksonville/St. Augustine, FL**

Contact: 904-221-3232 [Rachelsvineyardjax@yahoo.com](mailto:Rachelsvineyardjax@yahoo.com)

Contact: Mary Huston 904-885-9959 [mtliai@bellsouth.net](mailto:mtliai@bellsouth.net)

Friday, May 21, 2021

Sunday, May 23, 2021

#### **Newark, NJ**

Contact: Cheryl Riley 973-497-4350 [Cheryl.riley@rcan.org](mailto:Cheryl.riley@rcan.org)

Contact: Spanish Contact [elvinedoderaquelfinfo@rcan.org](mailto:elvinedoderaquelfinfo@rcan.org)

Friday, May 21, 2021

Sunday, May 23, 2021

#### **Thunder Bay, ON, Canada**

Contact: Mary Jo McDermott 807-252-7420 [cocoa@tbaytel.net](mailto:cocoa@tbaytel.net)

Contact: Terry Howard 807-683-7066 [thoward@tbaytel.net](mailto:thoward@tbaytel.net)

Denomination: Interdenominational

Friday, May 28, 2021

Sunday, May 30, 2021

*Note: \*\*Retreat will be held virtually\*\**

#### **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)

Denomination: Interdenominational

Friday, June 4, 2021

Sunday, June 6, 2021

#### **Atlanta, GA**

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

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

Friday, June 11, 2021

Sunday, June 13, 2021

Dallas (Español), TX

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

Contact: Eileen Kuhlmann 972 900 7262 [sanacion@racheldallas.org](mailto:sanacion@racheldallas.org)

Friday, June 11, 2021

Sunday, June 13, 2021

#### **Fresno, CA**

Contact: Jennifer Butcher 877-629-6626 [butcher\\_jennifer@yahoo.com](mailto:butcher_jennifer@yahoo.com)

Contact: Paula and Edward Davalos – Español [paula.d@fbcares.org](mailto:paula.d@fbcares.org)

Language: Spanish

Friday, June 11, 2021

Sunday, June 13, 2021

#### **Greater Boston Area, NH**

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

Denomination: Interdenominational

Friday, June 11, 2021

Sunday, June 13, 2021

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

Contact: Joel Rosenfeld 06-08-42-43-81  
[lavignederacheloise@gmail.com](mailto:lavignederacheloise@gmail.com)

Language: French

Friday, June 11, 2021

Sunday, June 13, 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)

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Friday, June 18, 2021

#### **Oklahoma City, OK**

Contact: Sally Crowe Nash 405-709-2714 [rachelsvineyardok@gmail.com](mailto:rachelsvineyardok@gmail.com)

Contact: Kellie Demuth 405-709-2714 [rachelsvineyardok@gmail.com](mailto:rachelsvineyardok@gmail.com)

Contact: Spanish - Ana Romero (405) 721-8944  
[Aromero@archokc.org](mailto:Aromero@archokc.org)

Friday, June 18, 2021

Sunday, June 20, 2021

#### **Vienna, Austria**

Contact: Claudia Schneidenbach (+43) 0699-1021-4241  
[info@rachelsweinberg.at](mailto:info@rachelsweinberg.at)

Language: German

Friday, June 18, 2021

Sunday, June 20, 2021

*Note: Retreat held in Styria*

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

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

Contact: Mary Lee Mason 866-763-6557 [rvinfo@newheartoftexas.org](mailto:rvinfo@newheartoftexas.org)

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Saturday, June 26, 2021

**Midland, TX**

Contact: Priscilla Fuentez 432-897-  
4788 [rachelsvineyardsanangelo@gmail.com](mailto:rachelsvineyardsanangelo@gmail.com)

Language: Spanish

Friday, June 25, 2021

Sunday, June 27, 2021