



# Vine & Branches

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

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## UNSUBSCRIBE

## SPRING 2025

### Abortion Recovery Awareness Month: Special Broadcast

Did you know that April was designated Abortion Recovery Awareness Month back in 2005? Twenty years later, we're still spreading the word about the effects of abortion. No action is more damaging. Abortion wounds everyone in its reach. Yet there is a path to healing and wholeness.

Join us this Thursday, April 10th, at 8:00 PM Eastern Time on [EndAbortionTV](#), and watch the live broadcast of our special show. Dr. Theresa Burke, founder of Rachel's Vineyard; Sheila Harper, Founder of Save One Abortion Recovery program; Psychiatrist Dr. Martha Shuping; Janet Morana, founder of Silent No More; and Pro-life Leader Frank Pavone will discuss the impact of abortion on mothers, fathers, and grandparents — and how we can bring healing to more people. You'll have the opportunity to ask these experts questions.

To learn more about the healing resources available, visit [LifeAfterAbortion.com](#).

“

Faith is the strength  
by which a shattered world  
shall emerge into the light.  
- Helen Keller

### Rachel's Vineyard Team Updates & Announcements

**Chat with Other Leaders in the Vineyard!**

Have a question? Need some ideas?  
Want to talk to other leaders in the vineyard?

Just a friendly reminder that you can go to our Facebook Leadership Group to ask questions and get tips from other leaders and team members. Recently, one of our leaders had some questions related to raising awareness and advertising

for retreats.

Don't know how to log into our FB Leadership Group?

Email Kate at [Assistant@RachelsVineyard.org](mailto:Assistant@RachelsVineyard.org), and she will help get you signed up!

A big "THANK YOU" to the Knights of Columbus of St. Patrick's Church in Kennett Square, PA for generously supporting the work of our ministry. Kelly (from our main office) is pictured accepting the gift on behalf of Rachel's Vineyard!



We recently re-connected with our Romanian team! The team, lead by married couple Maria and Fr. Mihai Groza, will be holding two retreats this year: April 4-6, and October 10-12, 2025.

The couple has been holding retreats since 2017. As their ministry has grown, so has their beautiful family! Maria and Fr. Mihai welcomed their fourth child, Rebeca, in July of 2023. We are so blessed to have them as a part of our Vineyard family.



“

**Blessed are those who have not seen  
and yet have believed.  
- John 20:29**



## **Pregnancy Loss Study**

In an effort to better understand the psychological impact of pregnancy loss, online surveys are being used to collect data concerning both women's and men's experience of abortion and miscarriage. Research participants will remain anonymous, as no personal identification is requested. Surveys may be accessed at [www.mypregnancyloss.info](http://www.mypregnancyloss.info).

Your voice can help increase the public's understanding of how pregnancy losses impact the lives and intimate relationships of women and men. Please visit our research website ([www.mypregnancyloss.info](http://www.mypregnancyloss.info)) and participate in this confidential and anonymous study. Thank you very much.

“

**Do not abandon yourselves to despair.  
We are the Easter people  
and Hallelujah is our song.  
- Pope John Paul II**



## **Articles of Interest**

## **Danish study reveals fathers, too, suffer after abortion**

By: Dr. Theresa and Kevin Burke

"A recently released Danish study analyzed the experience of approximately 200,000 fathers who experienced various types of pregnancy loss. Isolating the 8,221 men in that study who were part of an abortion experience revealed the following:

These fathers had an increased risk of emotional distress requiring counseling, were more likely to have contact with a psychiatric hospital and take antidepressants and anti-anxiety medication. (You can read a more detailed overview of the study with statistics here.)

With this in mind, let's put some flesh and bones on this Danish study. A courageous father, Jason, shares his harrowing journey of abortion loss and recovery."

\*\*To read this full article on Pregnancy Help News, [click here!](#)



## **Why Fewer Babies Means Bigger Problems — and What We Can Do About It**

By: Dr. Theresa and Kevin Burke

"As birth rates plummet around the world, practical and moral answers are urgently needed to support family life."

\*\*To read this article from the National Catholic Register, [click here!](#)



## **Catholics wounded by abortion need to be called back to God this Lent**

By: Dr. Theresa and Kevin Burke

Lent can be a perfect time for clergy to share a message of hope and healing for those suffering from the pain of abortion.

\*\*To read this article on LifeSiteNews, [click here!](#)



## **“The Gospel of Life” and an abortion healing program share a special connection**

By: Janet Morana

"Reading the pope's words, Dr. Theresa Burke recognized a confirmation of her own calling to develop effective group programs for the emotional and spiritual healing of abortion loss called Rachel's Vineyard.

As she counseled women and men who were suffering after their abortions, she could clearly see in their symptoms, and in their stories, that they had suffered a deep emotional, physical and spiritual wound. What they lacked was a safe place to grieve, to be heard without criticism and to be brought into a loving encounter with Jesus and the Church."

\*\*To read this article from Pregnancy Help News, [click here!](#)



**And God raised the Lord  
and will also raise us up by his power.  
- Corinthians 6:14**



## **Rachel's Vineyard Belfast**

In 1996, I got married in my mid-thirties to Martin, and as part of our new-found faith in Jesus Christ, we started helping Pro life groups and attending SPUC\* conferences.

At this time, one of the SPUC team members said to me, "You'd be great in Rachel's Vineyard!"

I replied, "Oh no - I've heard that's very emotional," but I was then asked a second time a few weeks later by another person. I thought I'd let my husband decide for me, as I was already involved in a lot of Pro life work, including talking in Schools and Churches about abortion.

I shouted to Martin (who was in another room) that someone else had asked me to join Rachel's Vineyard, and that I wasn't sure what to do. He came running out of the bedroom with a big fat "No way are you getting involved in anything else!" on his lips, when the Holy Spirit intervened and suddenly he began to cry.

"The Holy Spirit wants it, for my answer was a definite no!" he told me with tears in his eyes.

Everything was sorted! Thinking back, I will always thank God for revealing his plans to me in such a wonderful way.

The next step was to go over to Glasgow, Scotland, and complete my first retreat in 2004 with Martha Shuping, MD. I made a second retreat in Cork, Ireland, with Bernadette Goulding a year later. Bernadette then guided us through the setting up of Rachel's Vineyard Belfast in 2005, and we have been going ever since.

Over the years God has been marvelous in his loving mercy, nurturing our site, blessing it with his living water, bandaging our wounds, turning our bitterness into blessings, our rocks into crosses and our toxic tears into tears of joy. He has lifted our anguished heads, banished our fears, and worn our shame so that we could be set free and clothed in the garments of salvation. He truly captured our wounded souls sending us kisses, flowers and hugs from heaven.

I have been blessed to witness numerous spiritual, mental and emotional

healings on our weekends: women allowing themselves to accept the gift of motherhood and being able to spiritually hold their children in their arms; everyone experiencing the indescribable feelings of forgiveness for which they have hungered for so long; Fathers releasing years of pent up grief and sobbing over lost fatherhood and finding a renewed strength and purpose in the lives of their aborted children.

I've humbly watched as grandparents, boyfriends and girlfriends, sisters and brothers, priests and nuns - all suffering and crying in the sorrows of their own "Good Fridays" - receive comfort, peace and consolation. It was a witnessing of a people being resurrected from a painful, slow death of grief. Like Mary, we were honoured to be the first witnesses of their new life. Retreatants truly journeyed through their despair and isolation to a place of understanding, renewal and restoration.

In their own words:

*"Rachel's Vineyard has changed my life."*

*"There is nothing to worry about, everyone was so open, honest and nonjudgmental."*

*"Without Rachel's Vineyard I don't know where I would be now. The understanding, caring and love from all the team was intense."*

*"It was really powerful. I was able to strengthen my faith in God in a secure and safe environment."*

*"I feel totally renewed and set free."*

*"Indescribable. The best thing I have ever done."*

*"Thank you from the bottom of my heart, which I have rediscovered after decades of numbness, anger, remorse and self-loathing."*

*"I can't tell you how reassuring it is to find a purpose in the brokenness. I am back at Mass."*

*"Well organized, peaceful, exhausting, overwhelming and life changing."*

*"I can honestly say that the retreat was the best 3 days we have ever spent together as a married couple. The hurt inside which we both suffered for over 10 years has now stopped and our pain is transformed. On the Rachel's Vineyard weekend I have truly witnessed the love and forgiveness of God, which has transformed our lives."*

I will eternally bow down in awe of God's miracles, seen on each and every Rachel's Vineyard weekend.

Sadly, since 2020 and the effects of Covid, calls to the Belfast site have ceased. After much prayerful reflection, this year I decided it was time to hand over the reigns and offer all the retreat materials to a vibrant new team which was forming in Derry.

The Belfast team began the first retreat with the Derry group in January

2025 and is continuing to assist and support the new members in their formation as facilitators for Rachel's Vineyard.

In the ministry of Rachel's Vineyard, I have been extremely privileged to journey alongside beautiful souls on team, on retreat and at conferences, and I have personally experienced beautiful healing each time I stepped out in faith. Yes "emotional" it certainly was, but I wouldn't have missed it. It was "Mighty!"•

I would like to offer my deepest, most heartfelt thanks to Theresa Burke for her wonderful openness and cooperation with God's life-renewing plans. Cead mile buiochas Theresa! What a Grace filled "Mighty" Ministry - God sure is awesome!

*\*Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC)  
•Northern Irish slang for marvellous or excellent (Mighty)*

Marionette Morrison  
Rachel's Vineyard  
Belfast, N Ireland



*Marionette Morrison, Bernadette Goulding (Rachel's Vineyard, Cork),  
Sheila Murphy at Rachel's Vineyard conference Leeds UK*



*Doctor Rita O'Conner, Philomena Morrison, Marionette Morrison 2009*



*Marionette Morrison Theresa Sheila Murphy  
at the RV Conference in Leeds UK 2009*



*Bernadette Goulding, Rachel's Vineyard, Cork, Marionette Morrison and Philomena Morrison at the  
Rachel's Vineyard stand at the Divine Mercy Conference, Dublin 2012*



*Kate Meenagh (Counsellor/Therapist), Geraldine Kearney,  
Rosaleen McGuinness (Counsellor/Therapist), Sheila Murphy,  
Martin Morrison, Martine Taggart and Marionette Morrison*





*Martha Shuping, Marionette Morrison  
at Rachel's Vineyard conference Leeds 2009*



*Bernadette Goulding, Philomena Morrison, Marionette Morrison  
at the Rachel's Vineyard stand at the Divine Mercy Conference, Dublin 2010*



*Martine Taggart, Martin Morrison, Father Thomas,  
part of the team on a Rachel's Vineyard retreat Belfast 2012*



*Eucharistic procession in Derry - February 1st, 2025*

“

When spring came,  
even the false spring,  
there were no problems  
except where to be happiest.  
- Ernest Hemingway



**RV Recommends:  
Books and Events from Around the Vineyard**



***Father, I am Full of  
Your Glory:***

*My Path to Healing  
Through Poetry*

by: MARIA REINAGEL

Dr. Burke recently wrote an endorsement for Maria Reinagel's **upcoming book**: "Father, I am Full of Your Glory: My Path to Healing Through Poetry"

"Courageous! With eloquent words and powerful imagery, Maria Reinagel translates her heart into a collection of poems and vignettes that will resonate deeply within your soul. The result is a magnificent dialogue to be discovered in her book Father, I am Full of Your Glory: My Path to Healing Through Poetry.

Here Maria masters the incredible challenge of attaching language to the soul's grief and longing to trust and hope. Despite the unspeakable fears, Maria continues to express the deep groaning of anxiety caused by trauma and illness which had been woven into many hidden fibers connected to her life.

Maria takes the risk to tug on each spiritual and emotional thread through poetry. Grounded in stark honesty she examines her consecrated life as God shows up to join her in unmistakable ways, gently encouraging her full surrender of fear into His capable and holy hands.

Her journey will awaken your own emotions and spirit as she guides you on a pathway toward hope where you will learn how to find peace through the very wounds we try so hard to hide from ourselves and others.

This beautifully written book will speak to the heart of anyone desperately seeking consolation and intimacy with God."  
~ Dr. Theresa Burke, Founder and Author

*\*\*Everyone who contributes \$50 will receive a free copy of her book. She will print a limited number for that purpose. After the book comes out, it will be available for print-on-demand with Amazon. If you're interested in supporting the publication of Maria's book, [click here!](#)*



Have you ever wanted to visit the "Great Shrines of France?" Now is your chance!

From the small villages in the South of France to Paris, you will experience Lourdes, Lisieux, Paray Le Monial, La Salette, and Ars, just to name a few. **Fr. Ben Cameron**, a priest of the Fathers of Mercy and the **Team Leader of**

Rachel's Vineyard in Kentucky, will be the Spiritual Director of this once-in-a-lifetime pilgrimage from August 25 - September 6, 2025. He would love to have some friends from Rachel's Vineyard join him, so [book your spot here!](#)

**Passiontide to Easter Pilgrimage**

**April 1<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Tuesdays: 10:00 am PT (1:00 pm ET)**

*Join us for a special Lenten program  
to prepare for these Great Mysteries of Christ!*

*Sr Mary Stephen leads the group in a Somatic Exercise  
followed by her guided Ignatius meditation,  
bringing all parts of us into  
the mystery of  
Christ's Passion & Resurrection.*

*\*\*For more information about this event, [click here!!](#)*

Less Than 2 Hours Reading Time

**STEWARDED  
WOUNDED  
HEARTS**

Being Jesus  
to Wounded  
People

**DAVE WERNLI**

"This book is an **easy-access**  
'first responder's **tactical notebook**' to usher wounded hearts into the divine compassion of Jesus. Dave's protective approach to personal grief and traumatic experiences provides essential safety for **unpacking life's hurts** into the security of **God's loving arms with attentiveness, acceptance, and mercy.**"

**Dr. Theresa Burke**  
Founder, Rachel's Vineyard, Grief to Grace, Duty to Heal, The Living Scripture Institute

\*\*There are three options available for purchasing Dave's book: [Paperback](#), [EBook\(Kindle\)](#), or [Audiobook](#)

“

**Spring is the time of year  
when it is summer in the sun  
and winter in the shade.**

- Charles Dickens

## United in Prayer

Please pray for *Daniela* from *RV Slovakia*, who lost her mother earlier this year. We pray for comfort for Daniela and her family during this difficult time.

“

We proclaim the resurrection of Christ  
when his light illuminates  
the dark moments of our existence.

- Pope Francis

## Connect with us!! RV Social Media

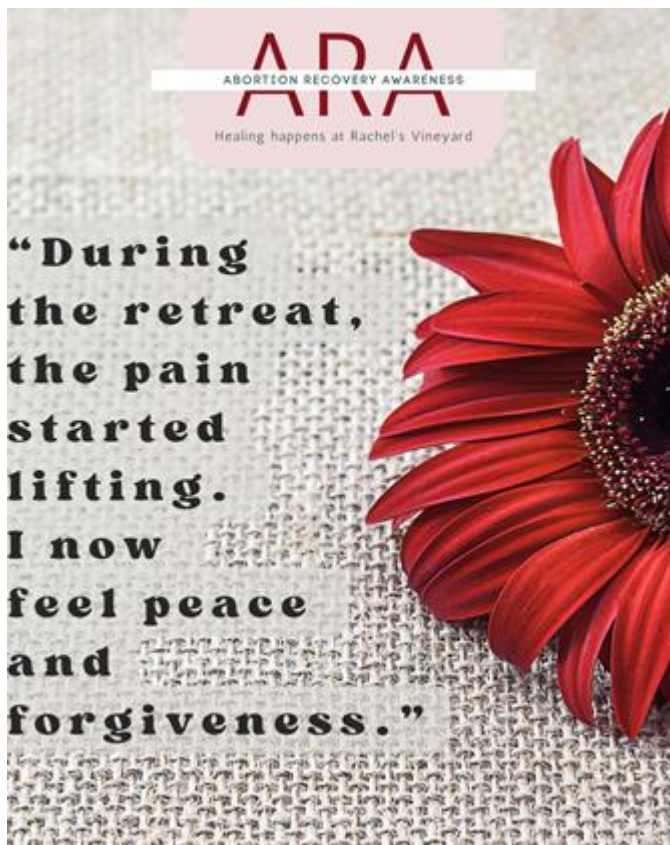
April is Abortion Recovery Awareness Month!!  
Throughout the month of April,  
spread the word that healing IS possible.

“I WISH ALL  
PEOPLE THAT HAVE  
EXPERIENCED  
ABORTION WOULD  
GIVE THEMSELVES  
THIS GIFT.  
THERE IS PEACE  
HERE ONLY GOD  
CAN GIVE.”



**ADA**  
ABORTION RECOVERY AWARENESS

Healing happens at Rachel's Vineyard



**Are you suffering** from a traumatic pregnancy loss and experiencing:

- Depression
- Anxiety and panic attacks
- Intense grief, sadness, rage
- Feelings of shame and guilt
- Suicidal thinking and behavior
- Drug or alcohol abuse
- Problems maintaining intimate relationships
- Eating disorders
- Nightmares, flashbacks

*you can find healing.*



Experience forgiveness and be freed from shame. There are countless women and men who know what you're going through. Confidential, compassionate, non-judgmental help is available. You're not alone:

- **For an in-person weekend retreat:**  
**RachelsVineyard.org**
- **For online and/or in-person Bible-based programs:**  
**HerChoiceToHeal.com (part of Ramah International.org)**  
**SaveOne.org**  
**SheFoundHisGrace.org**



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)



**For still there are so many things  
that I have never seen:  
in every wood in every spring  
there is a different green.  
- JRR 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!](#)



**Let everything you do be done in love.  
- Corinthians 16:14**



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

There are 63+ retreats happening around the world throughout April and May.

To see our full retreat schedule, [click here!](#)

