



Vine & Branches

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

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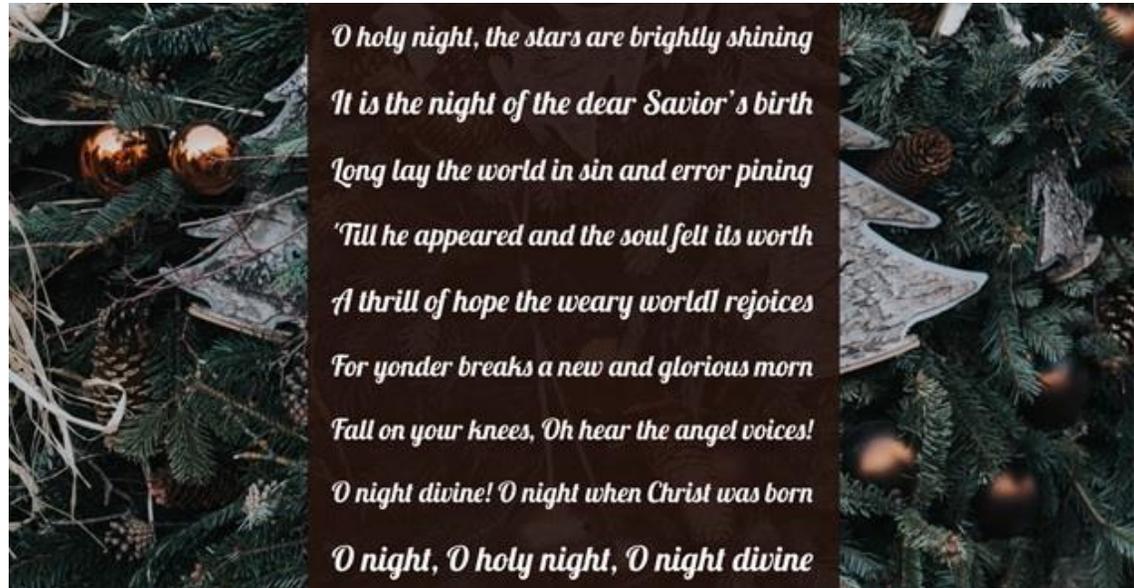
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December 2021



Inmate Serving Life Sentence for Murder Transfigured by the Child he had a Hand in Aborting in his Youth

By Kevin Burke

Paschal Mystery is a term that describes the redemptive work of Christ, especially the events of the Last Supper, the suffering and death of Jesus, reaching their climax on Easter Sunday. That same paschal mystery unfolds in the life of every believing Christian.

Here is the amazing story of how this mystery was manifest in the life of a prisoner at a Florida maximum security prison.

Earl J. Hinson:

"I was age 17, sitting at home on a weekday afternoon when the phone call came. It was Jessica...she told me she was pregnant. Instantly the thought that abortion is wrong flashed through my mind.

I told her we could take care of the child. She told me that she did not want to carry the child and that she needed \$400 to have the abortion. I was going to argue further, but her boyfriend then got on the phone.

It is difficult to put into words the rage I felt flare up when I heard her new boyfriend on the phone. It felt like an ambush. I told them that I did not have the money. As they continued to push, I pushed back and told them that it was not my problem but theirs.

After the abortion, anger became my constant companion. I tried to continue with schooling, but it did not take long for me to lose track. Violent thoughts lived in my mind day and night. I took unnecessary risks, such as racing, lashing out and fighting others. Danger and risk became synonymous with a good time. Adrenaline and caffeine became my bread and water.

Before long, I was one person during the day with certain acquaintances and friends, and a completely different person at night and with different acquaintances. My academic plans in college — to complete a pre-med program and obtain a degree in psychiatry — finally collapsed under the stress of my double life. Long-term goals became obsolete, and I lived my life day-to-day. Relationships began to suffer.

One of the men I spent time with on my ludicrous escapades came to me with another wild idea. The plan was criminal in the extreme. Finally, the fruit of passive-participation in the killing of my child ripened within me. I participated in the murder and robbery of a man, the wounding of another, and the near death of a young woman at the scene of the crime.

It did not take long for the police to arrest me. While sitting in the county jail a grace-filled moment occurred. I realized that I had hit rock bottom. But remorse for my crimes and sins did not flood me, though I did recognize just how insane my behavior was.

When sent to prison, I continued to look at the bizarre split in my life and the chasm that existed in my lifestyles. This, and God's grace, brought me back to His Church, and I began to recognize how my sinful actions created this split personality.

In walking with Jesus through my memories and past actions, I began to understand remorse, guilt, and healthy shame. However, no matter how much I prayed, no matter how much I fasted, and no matter how much I sacrificed, I suffered the demons of self-doubt and pride.

Finally, the Holy Spirit brought the phone call from Jessica to mind. I became overwhelmed with the sense that this wound was the source of my suffering and struggle.

At weekly services the Catholic chaplain polled 100 inmates to see how many men had gone through an abortion experience.

A surprise came when I learned that more than 90% of the men around me were involved in an abortion decision. Later, the chaplain announced that the **Rachel's Vineyard** program was coming to our institution to help heal the wound of the abortion.

The seminar answered my deepest prayers. It showed me how my self-image and core beliefs were warped by the abortion, my self-justifications, and my denial. I came to recognize that the need to overachieve, my obsession with detail, my propensity for anger and violence, and even my hunger for adrenaline excitement were rooted in my corrupted idea of masculinity.

My consent in the abortion of my daughter was a violation of my natural purpose to protect and provide for my offspring. This denial was forcing me to overcompensate for the damage I caused to my natural masculine identity. The problem was that this denial also meant that I was denying everything that made me human.

It was a suffering joy when I came to know my heavenly daughter, Angela Grace. I had

been unaware of just how callous and unfeeling I was, but through the healing received by God in the Rachel's Vineyard seminar, it allowed me to feel.

I came to know myself, my wrongs, and experience a remorse that is difficult to express adequately — painful to feel yet liberating to know. Rachel's Vineyard is the grace that God ordained for my healing, and the healing of so many others.

Though I justly remain in prison for my crimes, Rachel's Vineyard has been the vessel of grace by which God has made me free. It is in this freedom that I will now be ... **Silent No More.**"

A devout grandmother opens the door to grace

One of the victim's grandmothers played an important role in Hinson's conversion and healing.

From the *Florida Catholic*:

"One of the greatest examples of faith that Hinson ever witnessed came from a member of his victim's family — the grandmother of Eduardo Natal, who Hinson killed.

During the trial, prosecutors approached Natal's family to tell them they wished to seek the death penalty in Hinson's case. But Natal's grandmother, the family matriarch, said the family was Catholic and didn't believe in capital punishment. As a result, Hinson received life in prison without parole instead of death.

'It was a very tangible expression of faith on her part and it really rocked my world,' Hinson said. 'In a sense of desperation, I was getting back into my faith and then she does that, and all the sudden all that matters is living my life like that.'

In a further testament to the mercy, and saving power of God, in November 2018, the Diocese of Palm Beach named Earl Hinson **Respect Life Person of the Year** for his work in completing certification as a **Rachel's Vineyard** facilitator. Hinson has led many retreats for fellow inmates who lost a child, or children, to abortion.

Don Kazimir is the director of respect life for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Palm Beach. Kazimir **shared**:

"Working in the midst of great darkness, our recipient has been a beacon of hope and a light of Christ. He has truly been a missionary to the many lost souls in the prison. He is known as the 'go-to guy' if you want to learn about God."

Nothing is impossible with God

While Hinson has experienced a miraculous manifestation of God's grace and mercy, each day he remembers, and prays for the victims, and their families, who suffer because of his crimes:

"To this day there's been a great awareness for the loss I have caused, for the pain I have caused. I make it part of my prayer life. I walk through those memories with Jesus, and I ask Jesus to touch them with healing, to help them...I can still choose to grow closer to Jesus so that his grace can take care of them. As long as I continue to convert to the Lord and offer them up in prayer, nothing is impossible with Him.

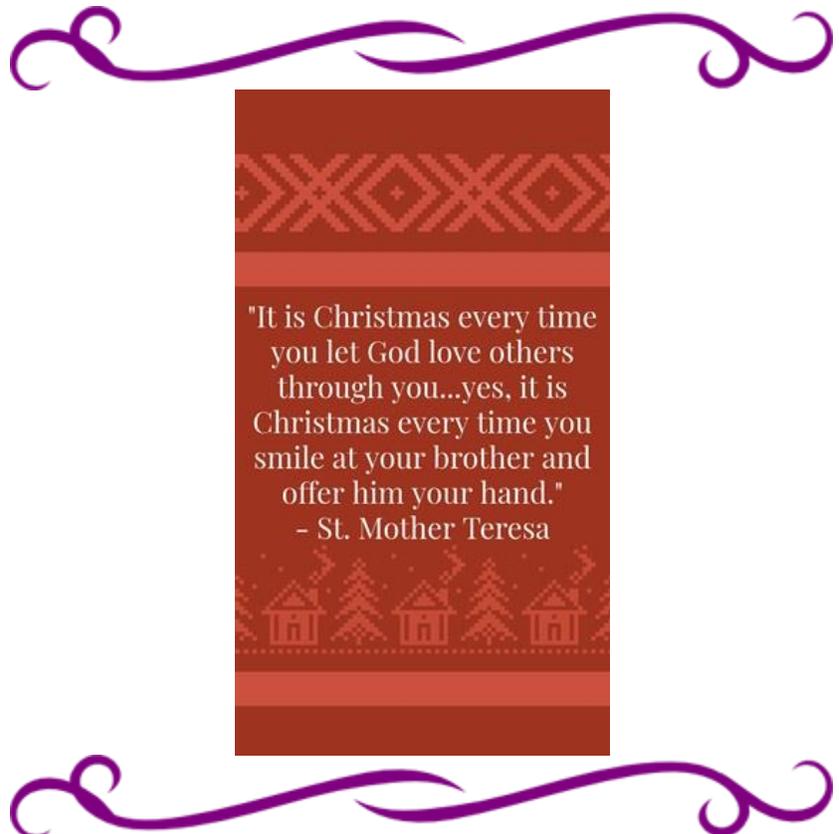
**Article originally posted by [Pregnacy Help News, and can be found here.](#)



Dr. Theresa Burke on "Prolife is the New Punk Rock"

On December 2, 2021, Dr. Theresa Burke was a guest on the program "Prolife is the New Punk Rock", a dynamic new program hosted by Bryan Kemper. Theresa and Bryan discuss the topic "I Mourn my Aborted Sibling", as well as the importance of the Rachel's Vineyard retreat.

[The full program can be watched here](#)



A Note from the Pastoral Director

Dear Friends,

This note brings my prayerful best wishes for a happy and holy Advent/Christmas season 2021! We celebrate it this year with a strong hope that the ongoing damage abortion brings may soon be drastically reduced through the current Supreme Court *Dobbs* case on abortion.

“God and sinners reconciled.” There’s the message and gift of this holy season, and there’s the heart of the ministry of Rachel’s Vineyard.

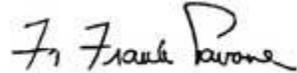
In fact, the verse of Jeremiah from which Rachel’s Vineyard takes its name (Jer. 31:15) is part of a prophecy that Christmas fulfills. It speaks of the restoration of God’s people - a restoration accomplished in its fullness by the coming of Christ.

“Peace on earth,” the promised fruit of his coming, does not primarily mean the end of wars - it means the peace within the heart of one who is reconciled with God. Peace in the heart then becomes the antidote to war. We are involved in the work of giving that peace through Rachel’s Vineyard.

In fact, if nations want to know how to secure peace in the world, they would be well to promote healing after abortion. One of the ways the human family distracts itself from the pain of destroying its children is precisely to divert its attention and energies to conflicts at every level of society.

As we hear again the Christmas gospel that a Savior has been born for us, may our commitment to bringing people to that Savior increase!

With my prayers,



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



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



"I believe I am part of one of the most privileged and powerful ministries... Rachel's Vineyard! Each weekend, without fail reveals the miraculous healing hand of Jesus. As a post-abortive facilitator, I am constantly reminded of God's mercy and love that he shows to the broken."

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

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

Twitter: twitter.com/RVHealing

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

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

Tik Tok: <https://www.tiktok.com/@rachelsvineyard?>

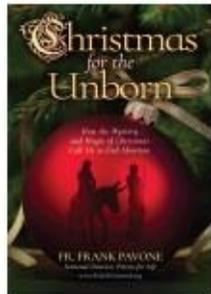


Christmas Shopping with Priests for Life

Take advantage of our great deals and new products this Christmas season that would make great Christmas gifts! Orders must be placed by December 10 to guarantee arrival by Christmas.

After that date, expedited shipping charges will apply.

Order at www.ProLifeProducts.org



Christmas for the Unborn ***Expanded and Revised Now Available in Paperback!**

This Advent and Christmas season, meditate on the deeper meaning of this special time of year. These reflections by Fr. Frank Pavone look at unborn children, and our duty to protect them from the violence of abortion, through the lens of the various theological, historical and spiritual dimensions of Advent and Christmas. Revised and expanded with an overview of the Advent-Christmas season with additional perspective.

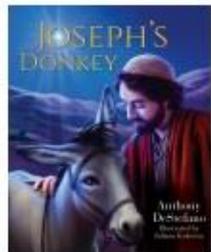
Children's Holiday Bundle

Contains these four books by Anthony DeStefano including his two newest books. Books also sold separately.

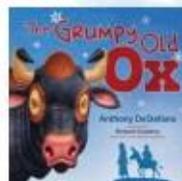
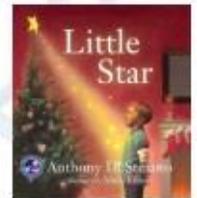


NEW *The Beggar and the Bluebird* tells the moving story of a little bird whose flight southward for the winter keeps getting delayed because of the strange requests of a local street beggar.

NEW *Joseph's Donkey* tells the story of a donkey purchased by St Joseph shortly before his marriage to Our Lady.



Little Star. Tonight a king will be born, and all the stars in heaven are competing to see who can shine the brightest for him.



The Grumpy Old Ox tells the story of a mean-spirited, prideful, old ox who has lost his sight both physically and spiritually but who experiences the transformative power of God's grace after he is present at the birth of Jesus Christ.



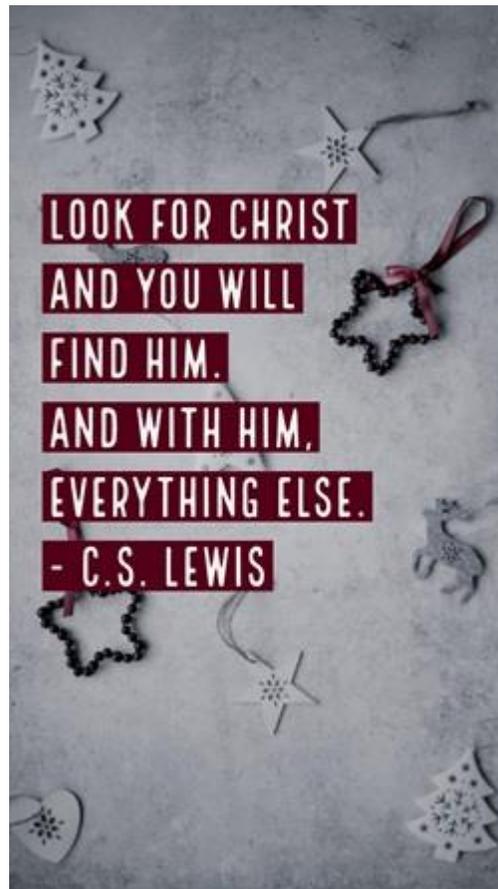
Wonder of Life Gift Book Set. Receive five adult gift books by Anthony DeStefano, sold as a set in a "wonder of life" sleeve. Includes: "All This and Heaven Too", "I Just Can't Take It Anymore", "The Love Book", "Why am I Here Anyway?", and "Ok, I Admit It, I'm Afraid."

"Social Justice Begins in the Womb" black zip-up hoodie and charcoal t-shirt. The image of the dove is on the front and the words on the back.



United in Prayer

While the worldwide pandemic halted many of our retreats last year, we are happy to share that our retreat sites were able to resume and thrive in 2021. We've had many new sites this year, and are so grateful that we have been able to minister to so many in need of healing. This is only possible with the thousands of wonderful volunteers that make our retreats possible. We would like to thank each and every one of you, and let you know that we are always keeping you, your teams, and your families in our prayers. God bless you all, and may you all have a Merry Christmas and a blessed, happy New Year!!!



Events of Interest

Virtual Training Event:

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

The Rachel's Vineyard Professional Training Series will provide unique, practical, and dynamic workshops to equip you to help those healing from abortion.

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
- 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](#).



The Good Shepherd Project:

Next Seminar will be in February 2022. Sign up below to participate!

"What man among you having a hundred sheep and losing one of them would not leave the ninety-nine in the desert and go after the lost one until he finds it? And when he does find it, he sets it on his shoulders with great joy" (Lk. 15: 4-5).

The clergy are ordained to shepherd the flock of God. We proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which is the Gospel of Life and the Gospel of Mercy.

A shepherd knows his sheep; he knows what helps them and what harms them. He feeds them with what is good and keeps them from what is evil. And he binds up all their wounds.

Christ Jesus is the Good Shepherd, and we strive to be shepherds after His own heart.

Today, we shepherd our people amidst a culture of death, the most destructive aspect of which is abortion.

Shepherding the flock includes teaching them the truth about abortion, strengthening them to avoid it, and healing those who have done it.

We who reject abortion do not reject those who have had abortions. Rather, we embrace them with the love of Christ and lead them to his mercy and peace.

Why are some shepherds silent?

There are many fears that keep clergy from preaching clearly about abortion. In my book, *Proclaiming the Message of Life*, I discuss many of them.

One is ***I don't want to hurt those who have had abortions.***

Regarding this, we have to realize that silence does not help those who are already hurting.

They may think we don't care. They need to hear, rather, that hope and healing are available.

And those who have not yet been wounded need to be strengthened to avoid the same mistake.

Another fear is, *I don't want to be political.*

But dealing with abortion is not simply “political;” it is *pastoral*. It’s about welcoming life, keeping the commandments, loving our neighbor, and stopping a holocaust.

Examine the other reasons why some clergy do not address abortion in the book found at www.ProclaimingTheMessageOfLife.com.

How do we lead them to life?

Women don’t get abortions because of “freedom of choice,” but rather because they feel they have no freedom and no choice. The Church fosters authentic freedom, and replaces despair with hope by showing all people that there are better choices than abortion.

Publicizing resources like www.PregnancyCenters.org and national hotline numbers like 1-800-712-HELP (4357) is a good start.

How do we heal the wounded?

* Share with your congregation the easy-to-use website www.AbortionForgiveness.com, at which, by using a ZIP code, they can find for themselves or for a friend the nearest ministry for healing after abortion. Use the bulletin, pulpit announcements, parish website and social media platforms, mailings, posters, signs, and other creative ways.

* Join our expert team, as well as other clergy from across the nation, for our regular training seminars about preaching the healing message and counseling moms, dads, grandparents, other family members and friends who are grieving a child killed by abortion. Sign up below or at www.ProLife.Church.

* Read the books of our pastoral team about healing and pastoral care after abortion. See www.ProLifeProducts.org.

* Utilize the prayers in the booklet [*In the Heart of His Mercy: Prayers to Heal the Wounds of Abortion.*](#)

* Read or watch the testimonies of those who have had abortions (see www.AbortionTestimonies.com). Our Silent No More Campaign helps those who have found healing to discern whether they should share their stories of the devastating experience of abortion and the healing they found in Christ. These testimonies teach all of us how these mothers and fathers are hurting and how we can help them. Their testimonies constitute a form of evangelization, as they proclaim the mercy of God that is available for all, no matter what their sins.

* Share with us your own homilies about forgiveness and healing after abortion, as a way of encouraging other priests and deacons.

Join us for Ongoing Training

All priests, deacons, and clergy of all denominations are invited to join in our clergy seminars, which explore more details of both the theory and practice of the Church’s pastoral response to abortion. Sign up below. We conduct these seminars on a regular basis. For decades, Priests for Life has gone into dioceses at the invitation of the bishop to do clergy training days. Now, of course, we can present these trainings virtually, which will allow more clergy to attend.

Our seminars cover preaching and teaching on abortion, leading people to alternatives, healing the wounds, and mobilizing our congregations with concrete action.

We have guest presenters, including experts in abortion recovery like our own pastoral associate Dr. Theresa Burke; Dr. Martha Shuping (psychiatrist); and key researchers like Dr. David Reardon, Dr. Vincent Rue and others. The healing ministry we do is not just for the Moms and Dads, but for grandparents, siblings, the whole family, friends, and also the abortionists who repent.



**Upcoming Grief to Grace Retreats
Healing the Wounds of Abuse
and Reclaiming the Gift of Human Dignity
GriefftoGrace.org**

Houston, TX

Email: G2GTexas@GriefftoGrace.org

Call: 866-763-6557

January 15-20, 2022

May 21-26, 2022

September 10-15, 2022

Philadelphia, PA

Email: Philadelphia@GriefftoGrace.org

Call: 610-427-1187

Call: 610-203-2002

March 13-18, 2022

Phoenix, AZ

Email: Phoenix@griefftoGrace.org

Call: 480-215-6762

March 20-25, 2022

Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN

Email: Diane@griefftoGrace.org

Call: 612-440-7247

May 20-25, 2022

August 24-29, 2022

Beaverton, OR

Email: GriefftoGraceOregon@gmail.com

Call: 541-357-7501

September 7-11, 2022

Lake Charles, LA

Email: griegtograncelouisiana@lcdiocese.org

Call: Marjorie Long – 337-489-2473

Newark, NJ

Email: info@griegtograce.org

Call: 610-203-2002

International:

Perth, Australia

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

Email: perth@griegtograce.org

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

Kelowna, Canada

Email: G2GKelowna@gmail.com

Call: 250-255-7223

El Salvador, Central America

Email: Anajhill@hotmail.com

Call: Ana Julia Hill – 503-772-97-721

Call: Nueva Alianza – 503-229-87-000

Cote D’Azur, France

Website: www.duchagrinalagrace.com

Email: g2g.lsi.france@gmail.com

Call: +33 6 09 39 79 27

London, UK

Email: info@griegtograceuk.org

Call: +44-207-937-4297

Call: +44-07484-248-799

Slovenia

Email: tomaz.mikus@gmail.com



Rachel's Vineyard Retreat Weekends December & January

Charleston, SC

Contact: Christy 803-554-6088

grace4healing@gmail.com

Contact: Kathy 803-546-6010

kcs6010@gmail.com

Friday, December 3, 2021

Sunday, December 5, 2021

Dallas, TX

Contact: Debbie Kaluza 214 544 2273

healing@racheldallas.org

Website Address: www.racheldallas.org

Friday, December 3, 2021

Sunday, December 5, 2021

Grand Rapids, MI

Contact: Maggie Walsh 616-340-1824

mwalsh@ccwestmi.org

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

Friday, December 3, 2021

Sunday, December 5, 2021

Jacksonville/St. Augustine, FL

Contact: 904-221-3232

Rachelsvineyardjax@yahoo.com

Contact: Mary Huston

904-885-9959

mtliai@bellsouth.net

Friday, December 3, 2021

Sunday, December 5, 2021

Oklahoma City, OK

Contact: Archdiocese of Oklahoma City 405-709-

2714 rachelsvineyardokc@gmail.com

Friday, December 3, 2021

Sunday, December 5, 2021

Tallahassee, FL

Contact: Toni Hepburn 850-210-6526

rachelsvineyard@gsparishth.org

Friday, December 3, 2021

Sunday, December 5, 2021

Wilmington, DE

Contact: Nan Freeman 302-463-7711

lucyminn929@gmail.com

Friday, December 3, 2021

Sunday, December 5, 2021

*Note: Retreat held in Paoli at Daylesford Abbey***Ann Arbor, MI**

Contact: Beth Bauer 734-879-0427

toheal4give@outlook.com

Friday, December 10, 2021

Sunday, December 12, 2021

Cluj-Napoca, CN, Romania

Contact: Fr. Mihai Groza 0040742649889

mihaidgroza@yahoo.com

Website Address: www.facebook.com/viarahelui

Language: Romanian

Friday, December 10, 2021

Sunday, December 12, 2021

Maison de la Trinité , ACR, France

Contact: Joel Rosenfeld 06-08-42-43-81

lavignederacheloise@gmail.com

Language: French

Friday, December 10, 2021

Sunday, December 12, 2021

Austin, TX

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

Denomination: Interdenominational

Friday, January 14, 2022

Sunday, January 16, 2022

Orlando, FL

Contact: Carmen Claypoole : English & Spanish 407-222-

8584 projectrachel@cflcc.org

Friday, January 14, 2022

Sunday, January 16, 2022

Ljubljana, Slovenia

Contact: Fr. Tomaž Mikuš SJ

00386 (0)64 178 014 rahelinvinograd@gmail.com

Language: Slovenian

Friday, January 28, 2022
Sunday, January 30, 2022

Poznan, Poland

Contact: Agnieszka Lewandowska +48 737 90 30
99 WinnicaRacheli.Poznan@outlook.com

Language: Polish

Friday, January 28, 2022
Sunday, January 30, 2022

Santa Clarita, CA

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

Friday, January 28, 2022
Sunday, January 30, 2022