



Vine & Branches

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

MAIN MENU

[Home](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Retreats](#)

[Contact US](#)

[Our Store](#)

ARTICLES

[End of Year Report 2024:
Greetings from
Dr. Theresa Burke](#)

[Rachel's Vineyard Team
Updates &
Announcements](#)

[Event of Interest](#)

[Footsteps of Hope: A
Quarter Century of
Healing](#)

[Connect with us!!
RV Social Media](#)

[Additional Healing
Programs from Dr.
Theresa Burke](#)

[Upcoming Rachel's
Vineyard Retreat
Weekends](#)

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Winter Vine & Branches

End of Year Report 2024 Greetings from Dr. Theresa Burke *Founder of Rachel's Vineyard*

As I write this note, I am feeling nostalgic. The 2025 new year will actually mark my 40th year of providing healing and counseling for women (and men) who suffer from their abortion! It's hard to believe that Rachel's Vineyard continues to grow after so many years. It's been an amazing journey of spreading seeds for the Vineyard, tending its growth, and nourishing our leaders with ongoing, free consultations, clinical trainings, research, and leadership conferences throughout the world.

Based on everything we see happening in the world at this time, I am more and more convinced that Rachel's Vineyard is greatly needed. It's safe to say that the world is weary. Weary of wars, division, and violence. Weary of hurricanes and wildfires, earthquakes, terrorism, and war. Weary of political unrest, election chaos, cancel culture, censorship, persecution of the faithful, and intimidation of people who speak truth to political structures. The list goes on and on. Indeed, the world is weary.

But ... here at Rachel's Vineyard, we continue to feel the thrill of hope in our hearts. We are strengthened. Every week brings news of miracles and testimonies of healing, because as Jesus appears, the soul feels its worth!

Jesus is our hope. He is the light of the world. He came to bring light to a people who languish in darkness. So even when confusion and fear threaten to overwhelm, undo, and paralyze us, remember Jesus! Call Him to mind. Meditate on why He chose to walk among us and bring us into relationship with him.

My prayer for this Christmas season and the New Year is that each of you feel a renewed thrill of hope as God comes with His Light and showers us with His grace and forgiveness. As He calls us His friends. As He loves us. Immanuel—God with us. Forever.

****To read our full [End of Year Report, click here!!](#)**

**“For last year’s words belong to last year’s language.
And next year’s words await another voice.
And to make an end is to make a beginning.”**

~ T.S. Eliot




Rachel's Vineyard Team Updates & Announcements


Happy New Year!! Now that 2025 is in full swing, please make sure to update our main office with your scheduled retreat dates for 2025! Retreat dates can be sent to either Assistant@RachelsVineyard.org, 2Assistant@RachelsVineyard.org, or you can call us at 610-354-0555. Thank you!!

Appendix Update: We are thrilled to share that we are very close to finishing our online Appendix update!! We have been working diligently over the last year to update every single document so that our teams have the latest-greatest information. We've also made changes to the layout of the appendix in an attempt to make things as user-friendly and streamlined as possible.

Advertising: If your team has any articles published/written, or graphics to advertise retreats, please share with our main office, and we'd be happy to share across our RV social media pages and/or Vine & Branches. Articles and graphics can be sent to Assistant@RachelsVineyard.org.



"While the bald trees stretch forth their long lank arms...
And nought more gladsome in the hedge is seen,
Than the dark holly's grimly glistening green—
At such a time, the ancient year goes by
To join its parents in eternity—
At such a time the merry year is born,
Like the bright berry from the naked thorn."
~ Hartley Coleridge, "New-Year's Day"



Event of Interest: "Great Shrines of France" Pilgrimage with Fr. Ben Cameron

August 25-September 6, 2025

Fr. Ben Cameron (RV Kentucky) will be the Spiritual Director on the "Great Shrines of France" Pilgrimage! Explore France's beautiful Catholic Shrines on this cross-country Pilgrimage. From small villages in the South of France to Paris, one of the greatest cities in the world, France is sure to take your breath away. On this Pilgrimage you will see magnificent Shrines and Churches visiting Lourdes, Lisieux, Normandy, Chartres, Nevers, Paray Le Monial, Lyon, La Salette and Ars.


[Click here](#) for more information!

We'd also like to recommend Fr. Ben's book, *Healing the Deepest*


Wounds. This book is the go-to resource for those who accompany a woman or a man in the process of healing from the wounds of abortion.

For those hoping to support someone who suffers from the wounds of abortion, this book offers practical insights for both emotional and spiritual healing. It is especially helpful for priests, pastors and counselors.

For information about how to purchase this book, [click here](#)!!



**“Start by doing what’s necessary;
then do what’s possible;
and suddenly you are doing the impossible.”**
~ *St. Francis of Assisi*



Footsteps of Hope: A Quarter Century of Healing By: Eileen Kuhlmann/Director of the Healing after Abortion Ministry

The Healing after Abortion Ministry/CPLC in Dallas, Texas has been walking for a quarter century in the footsteps of those who had the original hope of healing for those wounded by abortion. The founders of this ministry had a passion and a vision that guided their steps with hope. A hope that took them to drive from Texas to meet Theresa Burke, then experience a **Rachel’s Vineyard™ Retreat** themselves and carry it back to the diocese as the chosen format for God’s merciful healing of those suffering a loss due to abortion.

In January of 1999, Father Blair Raum offered a training and facilitated the inaugural Rachel’s Vineyard™ Retreat in Dallas. In 2003, the retreats began in Spanish. Project Joseph, healing for men, started 10 years ago in both languages.

What God wants....He blesses and it grows.

The Healing after Abortion Ministry offers 6 Rachel’s Vineyard™ Retreats a year for women and men, and three retreats of Project Joseph© for men, all things in both English and Spanish. There are many teams holding our 70+ volunteers, allowing people to serve according to their calling and talent. These would be retreat teams, retreat laundry, inventory, intake specialists, mental health, deacons, testimonials, radio interview (5 radio stations), facilitators, drivers, crocheted blankets, shawls, and set up/tear down teams. On each retreat we welcome a graduate of retreat on team as they serve those coming behind them.

The footsteps in which we walk still today, are deep and well formed. The same footprints of hope that our founders created provided us safeguarding and protection from challenges in the ministry, and encouragement when COVID took us to virtual format. Footsteps forged by passion, vision, faith and hope....deep

enough to hold compassion, mercy and love for all who come to our doors. Those are the footsteps in which we walk today!

The celebration of our 25 years of offering Rachel's Vineyard™ Retreats and 10 years of Project Joseph© Retreats culminated with a Mass of thanksgiving celebrated by a fellow team member, Auxiliary Bishop Greg Kelly, with two ministry priests concelebrating, ministry deacons serving the Mass, and others processing in with him. Among those in the congregation, a few of those who helped forge the original footsteps of the ministry, many graduates of retreat and team members. Executive Directors of the ministry of years past and present carried the gifts up together to the Bishop. There have been several bishops involved with our retreats over the years, but none as active as our current Auxiliary Bishop Greg Kelly who has served on several retreats.

As director of this beautiful ministry, I crossed paths with Bishop Greg at our anniversary celebration. He asked me about the two names of Project Rachel and Rachel's Vineyard. "Bishop!" I told him.... "Thanks to you, to the diocese, to the Catholic Pro Life Community, and to the bishops who walked before you, we offer the very best healing retreat for those who have experienced abortion. So when you gather with your fellow bishops, just remember to say that you have the **very best and it is called Rachel's Vineyard™!** Thank you for all you have done to help us keep it here!"

The original footsteps forged 25 years ago with hope and wisdom remain in place as we walk in them year-round, and as a ministry we look ahead with our eyes fixed on our Lord as our shepherd and guide, as we open the doors to all those who seek healing from abortion as we begin our 26th year!



"For I know the plans I have for you,"
declares the LORD,
"plans to prosper you and not to harm you,
plans to give you hope and a future."

Connect with us!! RV Social Media



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)

"Write it on your heart
that every day
is the best day
in the year."
~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

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!](#)



**“Whatever you do, or dream you can,
begin it.**

**Boldness has genius
and power and magic in it.”**

~ Johann Wolfgang von Goethe



Upcoming Rachel's Vineyard Retreat Weekends

There are 65+ retreats happening around the world throughout February and March.

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

