



About Rachel's Vineyard

"Jesus Himself said that He came to call sinners and not the self-righteous. I pray that all who participate in Rachel's Vineyard with the longing to be free and to be healed by Jesus, may find Him, the source of true joy, peace and love, and allow God to restore them to wholeness and happiness. I am praying much for you."

—*God Bless you.*

Mother Teresa of Calcutta

"The experience of the healing leads one to an openness in faith and life that often draws those who are broken back to the church and the Christ who loves them. Rachel's Vineyard is an experience that leads its follower to a wholeness that can only be God's gift."

—*Father Michael Mannion*

Author and lecturer

"Rachel's Vineyard is a unique weaving of spirituality and psychology. Participants are invited to experience God's conversion by reverencing the mystery of their own lives, experiencing the gentle embrace of Jesus and the power and transforming grace of the sacraments. Rachel's Vineyard calls each participant into the heart of the God who passionately desires their wholeness and holiness, loving each as if they were the only one."

—*Trish Schickert*

Associate Director, National Office of Post-Abortion Reconciliation & Healing

"I cannot think of another work of this kind so well done. A most difficult and painful human problem is engaged with faith, psychological insight and trust."

—*Father Benedict J. Groeschel, CFR*

Psychologist and spiritual writer

Rachel's Vineyard Ministries was founded by Theresa Karminski Burke, M.A., Ph.D., DAPA, and Kevin Burke, MSS/LSW. Theresa has lectured and trained professionals nationally on the subject of Post Abortion Trauma and Healing. She also facilitates Rachel's Vineyard weekend retreats for women and men throughout the country.

Theresa is the author of *Rachel's Vineyard —A Psychological and Spiritual Journey of Post Abortion Healing* (A Model for groups —Alba House) co-authored with Barbara Cullen; *The Shroud Rosary—Meditations on the Passion and Resurrection of Jesus* co-authored with her husband Kevin (St. Paul's Books); and *Forbidden Grief—The Unspoken Pain of Abortion* (The Elliot Institute). She is currently completing the *Rachel's Vineyard Retreat Manual and Letters to Our Children*.

Kevin and Theresa also established Covenant Family Resources, a licensed children and youth agency helping couples build families through adoption. Kevin Burke formerly served as the director for a crisis pregnancy shelter which provided housing, computer job training and programs for women in crisis pregnancy and their children. Theresa's counseling work focuses on bereavement, pregnancy loss, sexual abuse and eating disorders.

Local weekend dates:

March 20-22, 2009

June 5-7, 2009

October 30-Nov 1, 2009

To register call: ***Rachel's Vineyard Retreats***
(413) 452-0661. All calls are confidential!



Local Contact:

Rachel's Vineyard Retreats
Diocese of Springfield
65 Elliot St. PO Box 1730
Springfield, MA 01102-1730
(413) 452-0661
All calls are confidential!



Rachel's Vineyard

Weekends

A Spiritual Journey for Healing After Abortion

Rachel's Vineyard Retreats for Healing After Abortion



Rachel's Vineyard weekend retreats are a beautiful opportunity for any woman or man who has struggled with the emotional or spiritual pain of an abortion. During the weekend, we gather as the suffering Body of Christ and minister to each other in His name. We share spiritual exercises focusing on God's forgiveness, compassion and mercy. There are psychological exercises that help work through repressed grief and anger and many rituals to help you grieve the loss of your unborn child and accept God's forgiveness. The sacrament of reconciliation is also available. The retreat concludes with a memorial service and Mass of Resurrection.

"I experienced a great inner healing as a result of attending the post abortion retreat. I would highly recommend this retreat to any woman who has felt the void and shame of the abortion experience. It is a wonderful way to forgive yourself, find the unconditional love of Christ and grieve the loss of your little child."

"To any woman considering the need to reconcile her abortion, the retreat is a wonderful gift she could give to herself. You are able to experience the sadness, grief, and shame in the company of other women and men feeling very much the same. You are able to turn this pain into hope with the help of nurturing counselors and supportive caretakers. You are not rushed or hurried, but given time to reflect and become open to the healing process gradually. In the spirit of penance and reconciliation this retreat addresses the pain and suffering of women who feel their sin of abortion has made them outcasts from their church and their faith."

"I was terrified to take the first step forward and participate in Rachel's Vineyard. It seemed safer to remain hiding in the darkness, keeping the pain locked up deep inside rather than to risk exposing my shame to another soul. Now I am grateful to have experienced God's healing and forgiveness with other women in an atmosphere of complete acceptance and trust. Rachel's Vineyard has been a blessing to me."

"I recommend this retreat for anyone seeking closure of an abortion experience that has felt unresolved. This retreat has made me remember that my abortion was the instrument of my conversion; and that if I can accept that my baby loves me, I can realize that God loves me too. Spiritually, I am a lot less empty and restless, and have more peace than before these experiences on the retreat. I've also become less isolated with what I have suffered."

"This retreat has given me the opportunity to confess what I believe to be a sin. I was able to do this in a warm, supportive and loving environment. Here I was nurtured and touched, spoken to and listened to. I was given hours to reflect and make peace. I have truly felt the power of reconciliation through this retreat."

"For 18 years I have been haunted with heavy guilt that no one could take away, tormented by thoughts of what my child would have been like. Through participating in Rachel's Vineyard, I was finally able to forgive myself. I know that God has given me a peaceful mind, cleansed my heart, and has washed away my guilt."



"It was the best weekend of my life. For the first time in 20 years, I was able to share my grief, my guilt, my anger. I was able to mourn the loss of my baby. But most important, I was able to believe that she now lives with Jesus. For a short time I could almost touch her and hold her and see her. For this, I will always be grateful. I feel Jesus calling, pulling me back. A feeling I can't forget or deny."

"Rachel's Vineyard is a gift to the church."

"Before this retreat I was spiritually dead. I was empty inside. I felt separated from the church and from God. After this retreat, I now feel alive, and happy to be alive. I feel the love of God inside me."

If you or a friend are hurting from an abortion, please call our toll-free national hotline today.

877-HOPE-4-ME

Retreats are held throughout the year in many states. The retreat and registration are strictly private! All inquiries will be answered confidentially. For more information and retreat dates call the number above, visit our website at www.rachelsvineyard.org or write: Rachel's Vineyard Ministries, P.O. Box 195, Bridgeport, PA 19405-0195.

For a local listing

see the back of this brochure.