

# *A Time for Mercy*

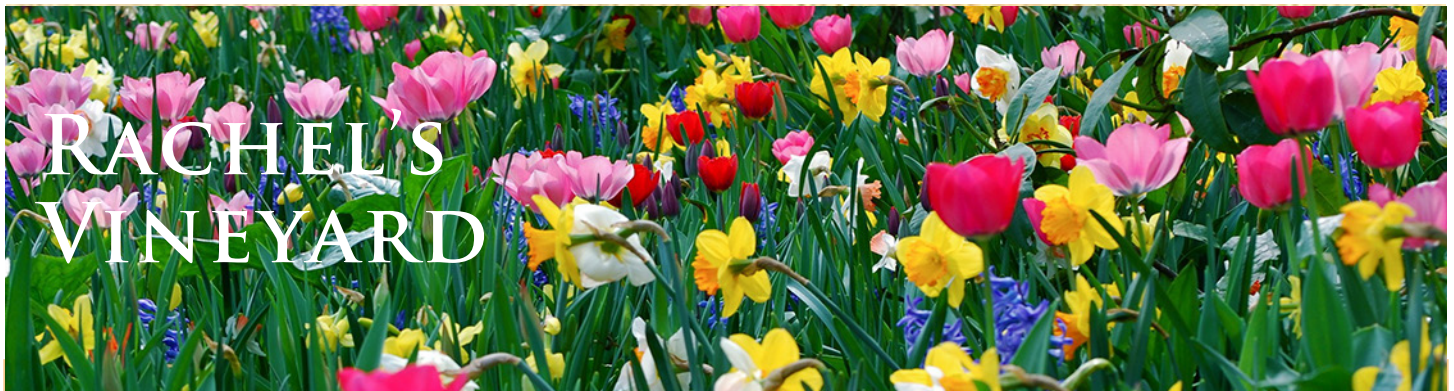
RACHEL'S VINEYARD

SPRING 2019



# *Alleluia*

CHRIST IS RISEN!



# RACHEL'S VINEYARD

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*You can help bring God's mercy, hope and healing to someone who has experienced an abortion by sponsoring him or her on a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat for \$260 or by contributing any amount to keep the retreats going. A Time for Mercy/Rachel's Vineyard is a non-profit 501(c)3 public benefit organization, and your gift is tax deductible.*

*Thank you and may God bless you.*

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[www.atimeformercy.org](http://www.atimeformercy.org)

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## RACHEL'S VINEYARD RETREAT

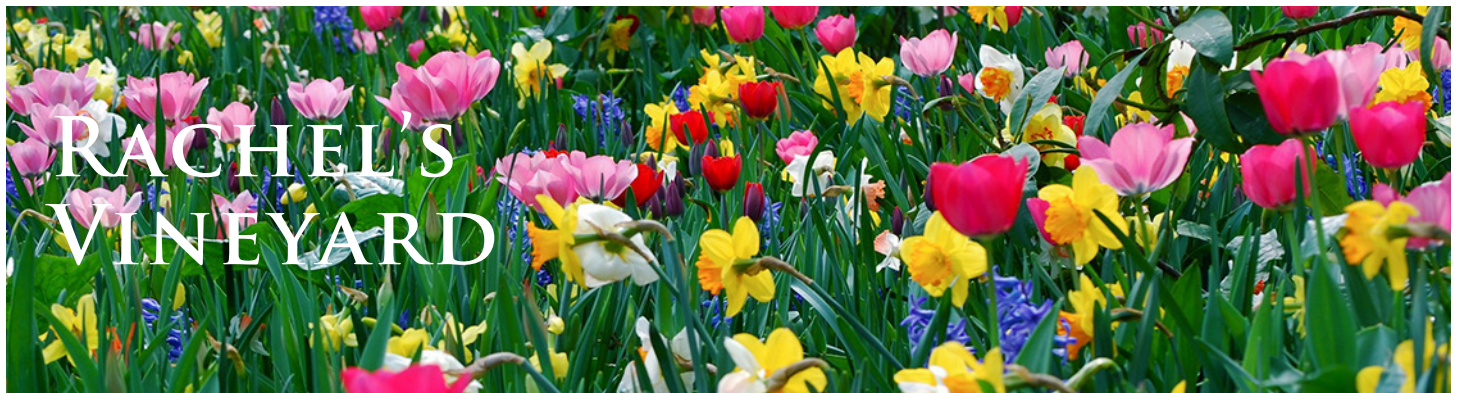
There is a familiar expression that even the non-speaking understands, and that is, "Que pasa?" It means, "What's happening?" We may well ask ourselves that. The trouble is that what is happening in our nation is contradictory. Just recently a well-known politician advocated for partial-birth abortion. Any sane or reasonable or intelligent person immediately can see how off-base that is and even murderous. The renowned Fulton Sheen said that any nation which kills its young is not worthy to be called a nation. We pledge allegiance to, "One nation under God." The reality is that we are not under God at all. It is what the people want right or wrong. We voted it in, so that is the law.

In all of this confusion, one group has been working and ministering to those who are victims of these laws and have had abortions. I refer specifically to people who have had an abortion and suffer for many years with "post-abortion syndrome." Despite the ignorance of politicians and the law of the land, people do suffer, and some, for many years. Rachel's Vineyard Retreat weekends have addressed this pain and woundedness. They have restored men and women to a whole new life in Christ. The weekend starts with brokenness, hurt, pain and a whole lot of guilt. By the time the weekend is over, the participants are free and healed, and a great sense of the miracle of God's love and forgiveness is bestowed upon them. The Rachel's Vineyard Retreat weekend is a miracle and a true experience of the saving heart of Jesus Christ. Even though our nation continues on its downward trek, Rachel's Vineyard is raising the standard of life and renewing life to the full.

Rev. Michael Barry, SS.CC.







# RACHEL'S VINEYARD

THE  
WILL  
OF GOD  
WILL NEVER  
TAKE YOU  
WHERE  
THE  
GRACE  
OF GOD  
WILL NOT  
PROTECT  
YOU.

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER

Dear friend,

I would like to personally welcome you to Rachel's Vineyard!

If the emotional and spiritual wounds of a past abortion have been sapping faith, love and joy from your life, I can promise, that if you enter this process for healing, your life will begin to change.

A journey into Rachel's Vineyard is a gift only you can open your heart to receive. The spiritual process of reconciliation with yourself, with God and your lost child will truly result in wholeness and freedom and a difference you will be able to feel inside your heart. This healing process will give you a deeper compassion for yourself. It's also a journey that will give you a new appreciation of your strength and courage.

By traveling a path of healing in Rachel's Vineyard, you will experience an end to isolation, despair and hopelessness. You will have the potential to revisit abandoned goals and dreams, and articulate your truest and deepest desires for your future.

Whatever your fears or hesitations may be, I encourage you to take the steps toward receiving the healing and peace that you deserve. Rachel's Vineyard provides a tried and true journey that over 100,000 women and men have traveled. You can be confident that there are wonderful people in Rachel's Vineyard who are ready and eager to accompany you.

You are not alone. A new chapter of your life awaits you. Take courage, God is calling you towards peace, love, hope, and freedom.

Dr. Theresa Burke  
Founder, Rachel's Vineyard Ministries





## HEALING FOUND THROUGH THE RACHEL'S VINEYARD EXPERIENCE

**I WAS AN INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE** student from China. I was 22-year-old when I had an abortion. I dropped out of school at that time, therefore I did not have a legal status then. I was not allowed to work to earn money without a work permit. On top of that, my BF pressured me into having sex. I lost my virginity and on top of that, I got pregnant. It was out of sheer shame and disappointment, also the fear of being found out, that I scheduled my abortion as soon as I found out I was pregnant. I was going to a lab to get myself tested for pregnancy almost every week. I think I found out I was pregnant almost right away. My abortion date was set five weeks away. I went there alone, thinking nothing of it. When I returned, I was a different person. I was mean, angry and irrational and abusive. I started to call my BF a coward. I secretly wished he would have married me and I would have carried the child to term. I was so ashamed of being a mother outside marriage. Over the next 14 years, I was a crazy woman striving for sanity. I went to church almost every day I could. I was there Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. I was an evangelical Christian so I attended several churches all at the same time. As time went by, I became increasingly religious. I also drove very old cars, and dressed myself in rags. My hair often was uncombed. On top of that, I managed to be successful at work because of the amount of praying and work I was doing. Yet I felt that all the success was paid at the price of the sacrifice of my child. I was deeply depressed, and suicidal. I could hold no relationships. I could not date, and could not feel. I was numb day in and day out. I was also suicidal and wished I would die. My suicidality ended when I attended RV. For the first time, I realized that I had a boy, and that his name is Michael John. He was meant to be an angel to me. Yet I gave his life away. Yet he loves me and forgives me and wants me to treat myself well. This revelation changed my life. I was able to forgive myself because my son whom I aborted forgave me. Today, I am truly grateful that RV set me on a road of recovery from this shame, and guilt. Thank you, Lord, for setting me free and for forgiving me. I praise you and worship you for your unending love towards me and towards my aborted son. Thank you, RV, for saving my life.

Christina

**I HAVE TO FACE** the awful reality that as a young girl and woman, I started to have abortions. Unfortunately, this seemed to be a form of birth control. I didn't have much support or guidance in my life in fact it was truly an abusive situation. I have lived with this my whole life and will continue to beg God for forgiveness. I have been to the Church for Absolution and it has given me a sense of peace. The priest passed no judgement only peace. I praise God for this in the name of Jesus our Savior. I wasn't able to sleep much the night before my confession. I saw a quick vision in my head of Jesus standing beside me with his hand held out to me in a beautiful white robe. I felt his presence as he comforted my thought and fears. I knew that I could bravely confess my horrible mortal sins to God our creator. Also, my mother passed away a week earlier and I was the one to take care of her as I am a nurse and semi-retired. She died in my care. I promised her that I would go to confession. While at the Funeral, right before communion in the Church, I felt a warm sensation with a strong hold on my right shoulder as if I was being pushed in that spot. I immediately sensed my mother and knew in my heart that she was nudging me to go to confession. I now have a sense of forgiveness and I am grateful for my Catholic faith which has given me this right. I had the opportunity to give this to God and to be forgiven through the power of the Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen

Anonymous Jane, Maine

THOSE WHO LEAVE  
EVERYTHING IN  
GOD'S HANDS  
WILL EVENTUALLY SEE  
GOD'S HAND IN  
EVERYTHING.