

Teleconference Training

The Rachel's Vineyard retreat ministry began hosting national mini-training teleconferences for those serving in post-abortive healing programs.

Teleconferences are scheduled for one hour, once a month, and feature a topic for presentation and discussion by participants.

The first teleconference topic dealt with how best to answer emails from people seeking help and information.

Presenters were Theresa and Kevin Burke, founders of Rachel's Vineyard.

Project Rachel Women Respond

"Project Rachel did for me what nothing else prior had been able to do—it provided me healing and reconciliation for myself."

"I thank God and the Church and Project Rachel for reaching out to women like me. The shame and guilt were lifted, and as a result, I have come to appreciate what a freedom it is to be rid of that pain."

"I hope all troubled women are allowed the free choice to go to Project Rachel without condemnation. I urge all who suffer because of their choices to seek Project Rachel. You shall be healed."

Rachel's Bookshelf

Forbidden Grief: The Unspoken Pain of Abortion, by Theresa Burke with David C. Reardon, Acorn Books, Springfield, IL, 62791, 2002. Hardcover. All publisher's profits from sale of this book will go to support post-abortion research, education, and outreach to those injured by abortion.

Dr. Theresa Burke explores the cultural and psychological obstacles to post abortion healing. Drawing on the experience and insights of hundreds of her clients, Dr. Burke shows how repressed feelings may be acted out through self-destructive behavior, broken relationships, and other emotional or behavioral problems. *Forbidden Grief* explains how to better understand the nature of unresolved abortion issues and what steps will help find healing.

No One Told Me I Could Cry, Connie Nykiel, R.N. 76 pgs.

This Book is meant for teens suffering from post-abortion syndrome and all those close to them - church youth ministers, school counselors, health care professionals and parents. Nykiel discovered a large population of high school teens were post-abortive and recognized the unique experience that abortion plays in their lives. Nykiel writes a message of hope and joy and helps them find healing.

Do Not Lose Hope, Fr. William F. Maesti, Alba House

In a series of eight reflections based on real-life experiences of women who have had abortions, Fr. Maesti reveals the pastoral concern of the Church for the humiliation and pain of so many who desperately need to be understood, and given a chance to repair the hurt in their lives. 81 pgs.

Videos - Bridging the Tears is a compelling video for adults and teens. Lola Falana, celebrated entertainer, introduces the video with a powerful message to defend human life with non-violence and love. A real-life witness tells how she found and accepted healing 20 years after her abortion experience. 27 mins. Gabriel Communications

Dear Children. Suitable for adults, and teens. Runs 30 mins. Also abridged version and Spanish version. Men and women openly share their anger, guilt, denial and grief over their lost child. They also share their discovery of the overwhelming presence of God in their lives, a God who gives renewed hope and forgiveness. Liguori Publs.

Who should know about post-abortion issues? Clergy, deacons, religious, pastoral associates, educators, parents, health care workers, social service personnel. For information on scheduling a Project Rachel speaker contact our office (616) 243-0491, Ext. 520.

Important Websites

It's normal to grieve a pregnancy loss including the loss of a child by abortion. It can form a hole in one's heart so deep that sometimes it seems nothing can fill the emptiness. Log onto the websites below and begin your healing journey:

Project Rachel (Grand Rapids Diocese): www.iserv.net/~prorach

National Office of Post-Abortion Reconciliation and Healing, Milwaukee:
www.noprah.org

Rachel's Vineyard: www.rachelsvineyard.org

Abortion Aftermath (USCCB): www.hopeafterabortion.org

"We are not content to let the wounded remain in pain and silence. The secret of Project Rachel is giving permission to women to come forward." - Vincent Rue, PhD. Dr. Rue is Director of the Pregnancy Loss Center, Florida.