



"A voice was heard on high of lamentation, of mourning, and weeping, of Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted for them, because they are not." Jeremiah 31:15

What is post-abortive healing? Project Rachel, the Catholic Church's ministry to those who have been involved in abortion, is a diocesan-based network of specially trained priests, religious, counselors, and laypersons who provide a team response of care for those suffering in the aftermath of abortion. In addition to referring for Sacramental Reconciliation, the ministry provides an integrated network of services, including pastoral counseling, support groups, retreats and referrals to licensed mental health professionals. If you or someone you know is suffering after abortion, confidential non-judgmental help is available. Call Project Rachel's national toll-free number: 1-888-456-HOPE (4673) or visit HopeAfterAbortion.org.

*Spanish-speakers may visit EsperanzaPosaborto.org (usc.cb.org)

Intercessory Prayers: Post-Abortion Healing

For all whose hearts ache from the sin of abortion, that God will soothe and heal us with the balm of His mercy;
We pray to the Lord.

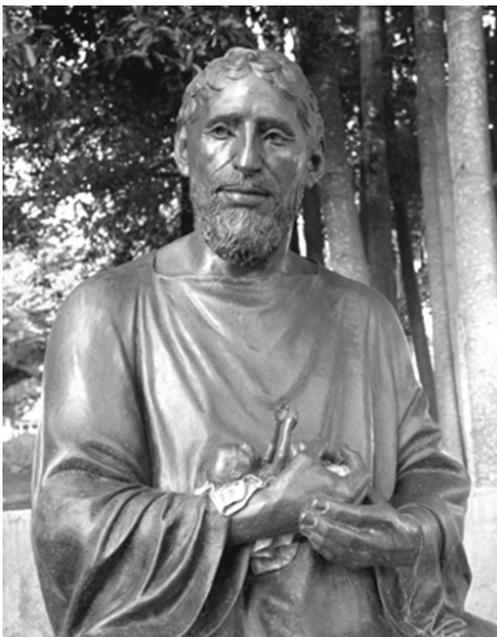
For mothers broken by the memory of a child lost to abortion, that through the intercession of the Mother of God, the gentle and merciful love of God may heal their innermost being;
We pray to the Lord.

For everyone who is haunted by the memory of abortion, that they might know repentance, mercy, and peace;
We pray to the Lord.

What is Rachel's Vineyard? Rachel's Vineyard weekends for healing after abortion are offered throughout the year in locations across the United States and Canada, with additional sites around the world. Rachel's Vineyard is a ministry of Priests for Life. The program is an opportunity to examine your abortion experience, identify the ways that the loss has impacted you in the past and present, and helps to acknowledge any unresolved feelings that many individuals struggle with after abortion. Because of the emotional numbness and secrecy that often surrounds an abortion experience, conflicting emotions both during and after the event may remain unresolved. These buried feelings can surface later and may be symptoms of post-abortion trauma. Married couples, mothers, fathers, grandparents and siblings of aborted children, as well as persons who have been involved in the abortion industry have come to Rachel's Vineyard in search of peace and inner healing. The weekend is a lot of work but yields a fruitful harvest for all who are willing to labor there. (rachelvineyard.org)

"You will come to understand that nothing is definitively lost and you will also be able to ask forgiveness from your child, who is now living in the Lord. With the friendly and expert help and advice of other people, and as a result of your own painful experience, you can be among the most eloquent defenders of everyone's right to life. Through your commitment to life, whether by accepting the birth of other children or by welcoming and caring for those most in need of someone to be close to them, you will become promoters of a new way of looking at human life."

-St. John Paul II, *The Gospel of Life* (99)



Shrine of St. Joseph, Guardian of the Redeemer - Santa Cruz, California

At this Shrine in Santa Cruz, California, the Oblates of St. Joseph in 2001 erected a bronze statue of a 7-foot-tall St. Joseph seated on a curved bench holding a 6-month-old fetus in his hands. St. Joseph faces another curved bench where a person may sit in prayer. The artist, Thomas Marsh, has made St. Joseph's facial expression to reflect God's love, the gravity of the situation, grief, forgiveness, protective strength, tenderness and comfort for the baby, and peace. The baby has his arms extended above toward a perpetually burning light which represents Christ. The area is enclosed by two semi-circular barriers for a sense of privacy. These barriers also hold little plaques engraved with the names of aborted or miscarried babies that have been entrusted to the Lord through the hands of St. Joseph. (osjusa.org/about-us/apostolates/shrine-of-st-joseph/)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **January 21, 2015**—*Disciples for Life Pro-Life Rally for Youth, Young Adults and Families*

Join the Archdiocesan Youth Ministry and the Office of Pro-Life and Family Life for Disciples for Life, an event for youth, young adults and families to rally here in Indianapolis on the eve of the March for Life - in solidarity, praying for the sanctity of human life and to celebrate life! The evening will include prayer, adoration and praise and worship with Steve Angrisano, a Catholic singer and songwriter. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. with the event from 7-9:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10. For more information and to purchase tickets visit: archindyym.com

- **January 22, 2015**— *Local Solemn Observance in Prayerful Remembrance of Roe v. Wade*

Please join us on Thursday, January 22, 2015, for the annual Archdiocesan Local Solemn Observance in remembrance of the anniversary of Roe v. Wade. The Observance will begin with Mass at 12 noon at Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral followed by a prayerful procession along Meridian Street. **Please note:** There will be very limited parking at the Catholic Center and the Cathedral. Additional paid parking may be available at Methodist Hospital Visitor Center Parking and other nearby paid public parking lots. Please plan to arrive early. For more information, please contact Elizabeth Ricke at 317-236-1551

- **March 27-29, 2015** — *Rachel's Vineyard*

"If you are a woman, or a man, who, in the aftermath of abortion, has struggled with guilt or shame. If you have a fear of rejection and so have stayed away from the Church please understand this: God has never failed to love you and neither have we. Despite the Church's prophetic stand against abortion, we are just as adamant about mercy and forgiveness. It is the heart of the Church's ministry to celebrate God's healing and forgiveness. It has been my privilege as a priest to reconcile many women and men who have, at some point in the past, chosen abortion. God is rich in mercy and it is a great joy to announce, celebrate and confer that mercy." - Msgr. Charles Pope, priest of the Archdiocese of Washington, DC. If you or someone you know has experienced an abortion, we can help. Please contact Project Rachel at 317-452-0054. All calls are confidential. Our next retreat is scheduled for March 27-29, 2015.

List of Resources

- How To Talk To A Friend Who's Had An Abortion - (<http://dft.ba/-uscqb8>)
- Rachel's Vineyard - (rachelsvineyard.org)
- Project Rachel Ministries - (hopeafterabortion.com)
- The National Office for Post Abortion Reconciliation and Healing - (noparh.org)
- After Abortion: God Offers Forgiveness, Healing, and Hope - a free booklet by Angela Burrin that offers seven Scripturally-based reflections to prompt personal, healing, heart-to-heart conversations with God. It's available for download in English and Spanish. (waupartners.org)

Our Lady, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, pray for us.

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