

An Outreach opportunity for Italian Americans!



Rachel's Vineyard Italy Mission: **Reaching women and men who seek Hope and Healing after losing a child through abortion**

Founded 20 years ago by a Catholic psychotherapist from Philadelphia, ***Rachel's Vineyard*** is a post-abortion healing retreat flourishing in the United States and beginning to expand internationally. **Monika Rodman Montanaro** for 12 years led Rachel's Vineyard retreats for the Diocese of Oakland, CA. After moving to Italy in 2007, she and her Italian husband, together with other Italian volunteers, in 2010 launched the retreats in Italy.

This pioneering program is Italy's first-ever Catholic outreach to women, men and couples seeking to reconcile their hidden grief associated with past abortion experiences. Our work embodies the New Evangelization so desperately needed in what is rapidly becoming a "post-Christian" Europe. During the *Year of Mercy* and beyond, **Pope Francis** has emphasized that the Church must expand its post-abortion pastoral care. The Italy Mission is doing precisely this - at the heart of the Church!


Women and men from Sicily to Piemonte travel hundreds of kilometers to Bologna to participate in this one-of-a kind 3-day program. While ***Rachel's Vineyard Italia*** has attracted the attention of the Italian Bishops Conference and the blessing of **Cardinal Renato Martino, Cardinal Carlo Caffarra and Cardinal Elio Sgreccia**, financially the ministry is not yet self-supporting and thus remains largely a Mission of U.S. Catholics and other friends.

Italian-Americans who've already partnered in this groundbreaking project say it is a natural fit for the charitable outreach of Italian-American individuals and associations, and so we invite more **Americans of Italian heritage** to join in this effort!

***Will you and/or an Italian American association to which you belong
become a financial supporter of the Rachel's Vineyard Italy Mission?***



For more information, including **Testimonies by Italian women and men whose lives have been touched and transformed by this apostolate**, contact Monika at mimmont@hotmail.com or 805-680-0406. Monika is glad to provide references from within the Italian-American community.

www.vignadirachele.org (click on )



Vatican official endorses Rachel's Vineyard's Italy Mission

"I am delighted to be informed that Rachel's Vineyard Ministries, a valuable apostolate sponsored by *Priests for Life/Gospel of Life*, is also present and operating in Italy.

Rachel's Vineyard Ministries offers weekend retreats to women and men suffering emotional and spiritual pain following the traumatic experience of abortion.

The retreats are carefully designed to help wounded souls face and overcome the repressed feelings that are often triggered by the abortion experience: anger, shame and guilt. The retreats facilitate the grieving process for aborted children, in such a way that participants experience the mercy and the forgiveness of God.

I wish to express my cordial support and warm encouragement to Rachel's Vineyard Ministries, and I promise my prayers for the success of this apostolate, present in Italy and in other countries around the world."

Renato Raffaele Cardinale Martino
President Emeritus, Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace

29 June 2009

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