

Central Illinois Life News

Pastors Speak Out



Coming Events

**Rachel's Vineyard Retreat:
The Beginning of True Healing of the Mind,
Body and Soul through Jesus Christ,
By Rev. John M. Verrier.**

I see Rachel's Vineyard as a spiritual and psychological journey of true healing for people who have had abortions. This is a retreat for anyone who has been wounded by abortion: moms and dads, husbands and wives, grandmothers and grandfathers, single people, young & old alike.

Rachel's Vineyard, a spiritual ministry for healing after abortion, was founded by Kevin & Theresa Burke in 1997. These weekend retreats are named after a woman in the Old Testament who mourned the loss of her children so much and wept so bitterly that she refused to be consoled. But scripture tells us that for Rachel "there is hope for her future." (Jeremiah 31:15-17).

Our society does not recognize the deep pain and the gripping physical, psychological, spiritual and social consequences that comes from a grief that is denied to a mother (and other members of the family); a grief which comes when a child is "no more" because of an abortion. Rachel's Vineyard is a place where all the repressed feelings of grief, anxiety, guilt and anger are allowed to come to the surface after being buried for many, many years. How this healing happens in each person is very unique. For three days each wounded heart enters a new world which is immersed in God's unconditional love. Throughout these days the Scriptures come alive and you are really there; walking and talking with Jesus. This experience is Catholic (although it is open to anyone - Catholic and non-Catholics); it is sacramental; it is nothing short of miraculous!

Abortion is not an unforgivable sin. But the women and men who have made the mistake of having an abortion find it very hard to accept forgiveness. Once the initial pain can no longer be buried, many problems begin to surface. Such problems include those within family relationships and between friends. People that have been wounded by abortion almost always suffer (cont: page 2)

During coming months, the following pro-life events are scheduled in the Peoria:

Cemetery of the Innocent: On the quad at Bradley University in Peoria. Monday, April 27th through Wednesday, April 29th. Organized by St. Joseph Newman Pro-Life Student Group at Bradley. Contact bradlevstudentsforlife@gmail.com.

Central Illinois Right To Life Garage Sale Begins Friday, May 15, 2009 and goes through Saturday, May 16, 2009. Collection dates are May 13 and 14. The sale will be at Saint Bernard's School in Peoria. See the enclosed flyer and Church bulletin for more information.

Life-Line: A Pro-Life Event with a Youth Focus is being planned for June 7th in Peoria. Participants will meet at the Peoria Stadium at 1:30 pm to stand in silent prayer for the unborn and for the Nation. Promotion poster and detailed announcement are on pages 3 and 4 of this newsletter. Organizational & promotional assistance is needed. Email Alexandria Reynolds at amreynolds3@mail.bradley.edu if you can help. Also contact her to come and speak to your Church youth group about the Life-Line event..

July Fourth Parade: Members and friends of Central Illinois Right To Life will walk together in the July 4th Parade in West Peoria. Meet at 9:30 AM on the 4th at the West Peoria fire station. Call Sondra at 673-4833 for more information.

Annual 5K Run/Walk: This year the race will be on August 8th. It will be at Bradley Park in Peoria starting at 7:30 AM. Trophies are awarded to male and female winners in several age divisions. Contributions are needed to help purchase the trophies for the run. Call Dan at 691-3611 or CIRTL at 645-8000 for additional information.

Annual Peoria Area Life Chain: Central Illinois Right to Life will sponsor the annual Life Chain on Sunday, October 4, 2009. Organizational help and church coordinators are needed. Call Dan at 691-3611 for more details.

from depression, doubt and despair, and feelings of worthlessness caused by the painful isolation of this secret sin. The sickness of this secret sin sinks into the depths of the psyche and these brothers and sisters of ours begin to have unrealistic thoughts and fears of God's punishments and retributions. In some cases post-abortive men and women feel that they don't deserve to live or that God will take away their present blessings. Suffering in silence they continue to resist the help of others and begin to fear that they will never again experience true happiness. They despair of ever being as happy or as close to God as they once were! Again, abortion is not an unforgivable sin. But it sure feels like it to those who have experienced the agony of abortion.

If you feel lost because you have had an abortion or have in some way been wounded by the sin of abortion, please consider a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat! If your heart is broken and your spirit is crippled, please consider a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat! If you can no longer recognize the person who is looking back at you when you stare into the mirror because that person you remembered seemed to live a long, long time ago, please consider coming to a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat!

At this retreat you will meet some wonderful people who will help you re-discover that life is beautiful and so are you! These people, who are the very instruments of God Himself, will literally lead you to embrace Jesus and to embrace your child again! If you come on this retreat you will feel unconditionally loved by Jesus and by your baby. And you will finally find the path to peace for which you have been searching for so long.

In the following seven paragraphs, taken from "The Jericho Plan" by David C. Reardon, I hope you will see that a *Rachel's Vineyard Retreat* is a blessing coming to us directly from the heart of our loving God!

A Rachel's Vineyard Retreat can help you take the steps towards healing that you have not yet taken after your abortion experience. Anyone who has been through this hell knows that the road to healing is not an easy road to take; and no one should ever walk that road alone! We all need people to help us; and full recovery from the trauma of abortion can take a long time and effort. God's forgiveness can be had instantly, but sorting out life experiences and feelings, and overcoming doubt and despair takes time. A Rachel's Vineyard Retreat is a really good first step down that road to full recovery!

Mourning the loss of your baby takes time, and that process of mourning is often cut short and never completed because of feelings of denial or guilt. Denial and obsessive guilt prevent us from mourning or force us to repress or cover up the sense of loss we feel. Mourning and feeling the pain of your loss will fade as you begin to heal. A Rachel's Vineyard Retreat will get the mourning process back on track.

You must recognize that you are not alone in your pain. Others have been through similar experiences and heartbreaking trials as you have. Their experiences and their understanding can really help you. And they *want* to help you, just as you may want to help them after the healing is done! A Rachel's Vineyard Retreat will set you free from the horrible feeling of isolation!

In the healing process we recognize that we have to take personal responsibility for our actions. But we must also recognize that others were involved too! To let go of your anger you must pray for God's forgiveness for yourself, but also for everyone else who either encouraged the abortion or failed to help you avoid the abortion. A Rachel's Vineyard Retreat will remind you of the supreme power of prayer and forgiveness.

Forgive yourself!!! God does not want you to live a lifetime in mourning. If you have repented and have confessed your sin in the Sacrament of Confession then your sin has been forgiven. You have been made new again in Jesus Christ, Our Lord! Rejoice in the knowledge that one day you will be with your child again! You will be in the arms of the Lord. And your baby will be in your arms! A Rachel's Vineyard Retreat will help you believe this truth without a shadow of a doubt!

Forgive those who acted out of ignorance as Jesus forgave those who crucified Him as He hung upon the cross. Those who failed you during your time of need also acted out of ignorance, fear, or petty human selfishness. Let them know that you forgive them, if possible. God wants us to forgive our enemies. This forgiveness should even extend to the abortion providers. A Rachel's Vineyard Retreat will put you on a path of spiritual strength which will allow this miracle of grace; the miracle of forgiveness!

Finally, surrender your children into the care of our loving God, their Heavenly Father; the Father of us all. Be confident and know, with all your heart, that your children are loved, happy, and well cared for. They, too, desire *your* joy and happiness. Yes, they miss you, but they do not resent or condemn you, because they live in the love and mercy of Jesus Christ, Our Life and Our Love. Do not try to hold onto them by prolonging your grief; hold onto them *by sharing their* happiness in heaven. Isn't this what you really want? A Rachel's Vineyard Retreat can get you on the road to being there!

Yes, God's love and forgiveness, His compassion and mercy are real. God's wants you to be healed. His arms are open and waiting for you!...at a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat! Please come!

God bless you in Christ through Mary!

Rev. John M. Verrier

Pastor of St.. Joseph's Parish, Brimfield, IL and Pastor of St. James's Parish, Williamsfield, IL

Life Line

A Youth Centered Pro-Life Event

Sunday, June 7, 2009

1:30-3:00 p.m.

Peoria Stadium

Come join in this silent protest against the genocide that is happening all around us. If you believe in the sanctity of life and want to protect it-if you want to defend the defenseless, come get in line for LIFE!



For more information please contact

Alexandria Reynolds

amreynolds3@mail.bradley.edu

Join the Central Right to Life Group on Facebook

Announcing Life-Line A Youth Focused Pro-life Event in Peoria!

IF YOU WANT TO FIGHT ABORTION IN YOUR COMMUNITY, READ THIS!!!

For those of you who do not know me, my name is Alexandria Reynolds. I am 19 years old and a freshman at Bradley University. Many of you follow the political news and know the changes that are currently taking place in our nation. There are many decisions being made that will greatly affect our country's stance on abortion. Now, more than ever, the pro-life people of the United States need to stand up and make a difference regarding these decisions! It needs to be done right here in your community.

Being a young person myself, I understand feeling helpless--like there's nothing you can do to change anything going on in our nation's capital. I want to make something clear. It doesn't matter what laws are passed. It doesn't even matter if there's an abortion clinic on every street corner. We can still make a difference and defend and save the lives of millions of unborn children by reaching the hearts and minds of those who have the choice to say NO to abortion.

I feel that there are not a lot of opportunities for young people to take action against abortion in the Peoria area. That is why I have decided to plan a youth focused pro-life event called Life-Line. On June 7, 2009 we will be meeting at Peoria Stadium at 1:30 P.M. to take part in a silent protest of prayer. We will line up along War Memorial from 2-3 P.M. holding signs with positive pro-life messages that will speak to the hearts and minds of those driving by. This will also be a time spent in prayer for our nation and for the many young women considering abortion.

I will be visiting many churches and schools/school groups to spread the word about Life-Line. We will also have updates through the Central Illinois Right to Life FaceBook group. If you have any questions, or would like to get involved with preparing for the event, please email me at amreynolds3@mail.bradley.edu.

Everyone is welcome to participate in this event, but I am especially calling on the Peoria area YOUTH to step up and join the fight against abortion. The more time you let slip away without working against it, the more lives lost.

Thank you so much for reading this!

God Bless!

Alexandria Reynolds

PS - I so appreciate everyone who has chosen to join the Central Illinois Right To Life [FaceBook Group](#). I encourage all of you to invite everyone on your friends list to join, too. Not everyone will join, but people will surprise you by joining!

17th Annual Right To Life **Benefit Garage Sale**



Friday, May 15, 8 am to 5 pm

Saturday, May 16, 8 am to 10 am

Saturday, May 16, 10 am to 12 pm - \$3 Bag Sale

Saint Bernard School

510 E. Kansas, In Peoria

Corner of Nebraska & New York

***Nice, usable, clean clothing for all sizes *Clean household items
*Nice, clean linens *Kitchen items *Small Appliances in working
condition *Lawn & garden items *Craft items *Exercise equipment *Nice
books *CDs, tapes and music *Antiques**

Donation Drop Off Dates

Wednesday, May 13, 8 am to 8 pm

Thursday, May 14, 8 am to 5 pm



Sorry, we cannot accept baked goods. Please, No Large appliances, refrigerators, washers, TVs, microwaves, computers, computer parts, waterbeds, bathroom fixtures, magazines, or encyclopedias.

Also needed, workers for each of the above days for setup and pricing. Workers can sign up for two hour segments or more. Also we need helpers with a pickup truck or van to pick up and move donations.



Call Sondra at 309-673-4833 or 309-645-8000.

Please post this notice.

January 2009 Sanctity of Human Life Walk Rally

This year's Walk for Life in Peoria was held on Tuesday, January 20, 2009, at 6:30 P.M. Participants met at the Peoria County courthouse at that time and after prayer and singing walked to the 7:00 P.M. Sanctity of Human Life Rally at Sacred Heart Church in downtown Peoria, IL. The rally featured special music and prayer along with reports on local Pro Life efforts. Mr. Derrick Jones, Communications Director - National Right to Life Committee, was the keynote speaker.

Recent Memorial Donations to Central Illinois Right To Life

In Memory of Richard Donnelly

Susan Sullivan, Alex & Matt - Jackson, AL
Lou Burdeshaw - Chattanooga, TN
Gerald A. Donnelly - Williamsburg, MI
Bill Curry - E. Peoria, IL
Stephen & Kathy Roehm - Dunlap, IL
Jerome Meismer, for Sandtrapers Golf League - Peoria., IL
Georgiana L. Donnelly - Peoria, IL
Gerald & Marilyn Donnelly - Sarasota, FL
Gregory & Jean Bachler - Peoria, IL
Kenneth McGann - Peoria, IL
Mary K. Wickert - Peoria, IL
Vito & Christine Minneci - Princeville, IL
Nancy J. Nunn - Washington, IL
David J. & Patricia L. Donnelly - Peoria, IL
Michael D. & Pamela S. Donnelly - Chillicothe, IL
David A. & Julie A. Roth - Manassas, VA
Eugenia & Kenneth Kouri - Peoria, IL
Nancy L. & Michael G. O'Brian - Peoria, IL
Maureen Kenny - Peoria, IL
Dennis & Patricia Powers - Peoria, IL
Mary Colgan - Peoria, IL
James & Jeanne Salmon - Peoria, IL
Ellen German - W. Peoria, IL
E. Donald Martin - Morton, IL
Jeanne Donahue - Peoria, IL
Thomas & Gerda Horton - Peoria, IL
Paul & Jeanne Coogan - Peoria, IL

In Memory of Louise R. Smith

Maureen Harney - Chicago, IL
Paul & Jeanne Coogan - Peoria, IL
Betty Smith - Metamora, IL
Bryan & Rebecca Toole - Overland Park, KS
Roger & Kathleen Bachman - Metamora, IL
Alvin & Beverly Matheny
James & Rogenia Smith - Tremont, IL
William Smith, Peoria, IL
Marjorie Cunningham - Oskaloosa, IN
Melissa Perrone - Hermitage, TN
Joseph & Karen Burkitt - Edwards, IL
William & Jean Krumholz - Peoria, IL

In Memory of Adolph Volkert

Patrick Conley - Princeville, IL
David Smith - Grinnell, IA
Anna Peters - Peoria, IL
Betty Schumacher - Toluca, IL
James & Jean Cunningham - Grinnell, IA
Mary & Connie Clemons - Peoria, IL
Kimbra Korte - Newton, IA
Linda & Jack Garrett - Edwards, IL
Henrietta & David Whitten - Peoria, IL
Curtis Lynn & Margaret McWilliams - Victor, IA
Carol Reid - Peoria, IL
Gregory & Lora Volkert - Edwards, IL
Kirk & Sheri Walters - N. Liberty, IA
Carolyn White - Iowa City, IA

Central Illinois Right to Life: Membership and Volunteer Drive

If you would like to work with us to defend Right to Life in Central Illinois, fill out and mail this form to receive our quarterly newsletter and/or to let us know that you are available to help with Pro-Life activities and events in the Peoria area. Donations are appreciated but we need YOU much more than we need money!

Name : _____

Address : _____

City : _____

State : _____

Zip Code : _____

Telephone : _____

Email : _____

SIGN ME UP FOR CIRTL QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

I AM VOLUNTEERING TO HELP : Please put me on your list of volunteers

ACCEPT MY DONATION : \$5__ \$10__ \$15__ \$25__ Other_____

2009 BENEFIT GARAGE SALE

CENTRAL ILLINOIS RIGHT TO LIFE 17TH ANNUAL BENEFIT GARAGE SALE



Friday, May 15, 8 am - 5 pm,
Saturday, May 16, 8 am - 10 am,
Saturday, May 16, 10 am - 12 pm, \$3 A Bag Sale
Saint Bernard's School; 510 E. Kansas, Peoria, IL

We need donations of :

*Nice, usable, clean clothing for all sizes *Clean household items in working condition *Nice, clean linens *Kitchen items *Small Appliances *Lawn & garden items *Craft items *Exercise equipment *Nice books *CDs, tapes and music *Antiques.

Please, No Torn, Broken, Or Soiled Items. We Cannot Accept Baked Goods.

Please, no large appliances, refrigerators, washers, TVs, microwaves, computers, computer parts, waterbeds, bathroom fixtures, magazines, or encyclopedias.

Small appliances must be in working order.

DONATION DROP OFF DATES:
Wednesday, May 13 , 8 am - 8 pm
Thursday, May 14, 8 am - 5 pm



Volunteer Help Is Desperately Needed Wednesday And Thursday Before The Sale, As Well As Friday And Saturday During The Sale, And Immediately After For Clean-Up And Agency Pick-Up. Perhaps Your Church Group Could Sponsor A Time Slot At Your Convenience. Remember, We Are A Volunteer Organization. Senior Citizens & Teens Are Welcomed & Encouraged. Also If You Are An Experienced Garage Saler Or Have Organizational Skills Or A Talent For Arranging Displays, We need You!!! If you have a pickup truck or van and would be willing to pick up or move donations for us, please call Sondra at 673-4833 or 309-645-8000.

Please Fill Out And Return To CIRTL At 4100 N Brandywine Dr. , Peoria, IL 61614,
Or Call Sondra @ 309-673-4833 or 309-645-8000
[Please Circle Preferred Day(s) And Indicate Time(s) You Can Help.] Thank You !!!

I Can Help Wednesday And/Or Thursday, May 13 And/Or May 14.
Time(s) From When To When _____

I Can Help Friday And/Or Saturday, May 15 And/Or May 16.
Time(s) From When To When _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Central Illinois Life News

Central Illinois Right To Life Has a [New FaceBook Group](#) — Search for Us on FaceBook or Go to the CIRTL Web Site — www.cirtl.org — and Click on the FaceBook Icon

CIRTL Has a New Director's BLOG — Go to www.centralillinoisrighttolife.blogspot.com

Pro Life Events Remembered - Washington DC Bus Trip

On January 21, 2009, Peoria Charter Coach buses left Central Illinois carrying local Pro-Life supporters to the annual March for Life in Washington. Notable events included hearing our 2008 rally speaker, Pastor Luke J. Robinson, address the rally on the National Mall, and the march to the Supreme Court. Marchers returned to Peoria on January 23rd, very tired but excited about their contribution to the cause. Video of Pastor Robinson's speech can be found on the web at <http://quinnchapelamechurch.org/videos.html>. Make plans now to go to the March for Life with us in January 2010. Call CIRTL at 309-645-8000 for more details.

Peoria Dining Tour Coupon Books Are Still Available—Call 309-645-8000

Unity on the essentials of the Sanctity of Human Life is our objective. We are not seeking uniformity of opinion on all matters.. Therefore, some ideas advocated by the authors of articles in Central Illinois Life News or on the Central Illinois Right To Life website may not necessarily reflect the the personal views of all the members and officers of Central Illinois Right To Life, Inc.

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